Action Items

Allocation of 2018-2019 Annual Campaign Proceeds (Harrison)
$242,593.72 was raised through the July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, annual campaign. Based on the RPL’s joint fundraising agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL, the proceeds of the annual campaign are to be divided evenly between the FFRPL and RPL, less any donor-restricted gifts, which translate to the following recommended allocation:

Distribution of net proceeds:
- Rochester Public Library for books, materials and programs: $82,500.00
- The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library: $82,500.00
- Campaign Direct Costs: $30,605.31

Restricted gifts and additional library allocation:
- Donor Restricted funds for Library use: $24,519.84
- Restricted gifts to endowment funds: $8,441.34
- Funds for donor recognition event(s): $9,527.23
- Gifts designated for special projects: $4,500.00

Total: $242,953.72

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed 2018 – 2019 annual campaign earnings allocation as described above.

E-Security Agreement (Harrison)
We have been working through a series of continuity of operations planning at the City level, and LAS/Finance led a primer for MCLS Directors on business continuity and IT vulnerability in October 2018. RPL/MCLS administration considers intentional network disruption (hack, malware, etc.) a higher likelihood than natural disasters, especially in light of recent ransomware attacks at libraries and schools in New York (https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/news/2019/07/17/onondaga-county-libraries-hit-by-ransomware).

Considering the ransomware attack on the Onondaga Library System, we will conduct email vulnerability assessments and training for MCLS staff in October 2019. We have selected KnowBe4, Inc., a security vendor who provides both assessment and training. Their security-awareness program combines web-based classes with frequent simulated phishing attacks via email and reporting tools. The training employs actual case studies, live demonstration videos, and tests. KnowBe4 is currently in use and recommended by the City of Rochester and Finger Lakes Library System.
KnowBe4 has provided a three-year proposal for services, splitting the cost over two years at $8,586 per year. Funding is allocated from the FY20 and FY21 LAS operating budget. Pricing is based on total email addresses, with 750 emails incorporated across the RPL and MCLS. The service will include all MCLS member email addresses, as the vulnerability from an email threat would impact both MCLS and RPL networks.

**Board Action Requested**: Approval of an agreement with KnowBe4, Inc., for an amount not to exceed $17,172, for a term ending August 31, 2022.

**Tutoring Agreements (Reeves)**
The RPL recommends continuation of Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) tutoring and afterschool tutoring with three of our current instructors. James Lynch will provide TASC tutoring at Arnett, Lyell and Maplewood, while Melissa Parrish and Charlene Girard will provide afterschool student tutoring services at Wheatley and Arnett in a similar capacity to prior years of service. Weekly schedules for classroom tutoring at each branch are established by Branch Administration, the Branch Site Supervisor, and instructor. They will each be paid at a rate of $29 per hour at the following not-to-exceed amounts:

- James Lynch, 400 hours, $11,600
- Melissa Parrish, 160 hours, $4,640
- Charlene Girard, 320 hours, $9,280

Funding is allocated from FY20 Branch Operating budget ($25,520). Results of 2018-19 tutoring were included as a pre-read report with the Board documents.

**Board Actions Requested**: Approve an agreement with James Lynch, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed $11,600 and a period of September 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Approve an agreement with Melissa Parrish, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed $4,640 and a period of September 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Approve an agreement with Charlene Girard, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed $9,280 and a period of September 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

**Lyell Food for Fines Event (Reeves)**
In honor of the National Food Bank Day, which is on September 6, 2019, Lyell Branch library would like to host a food for fines program. Lyell has hosted a food pantry for the past 7 months and serves on average 12 families per month. The food pantry is run solely on donations. Currently our pantry is running low. We feel that this is a great opportunity to support our food pantry as well as lessen the financial barriers for patrons to borrow library materials. If we accumulate too many items, we will distribute the excess at our monthly Free Produce distribution held every first Saturday of the month. The fine forgiveness will be $1 per non-perishable item donated up to $5 maximum. All ages can participate. Lyell Branch items will only be considered. We would like to run the program through the month of September.

**Board Action Requested**: Approve a Food for Fines program at the Lyell Branch for September 2019.

**Fine Arts Gift Policy Revision (Uttaro)**
The Fine Arts Gift Policy was created in 1997, and was recently reviewed and revised. In 1997, the policy was created in response to several donations of fine art intended for the new Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building. At the time, a committee of staff and Rundel Library Foundation staff were responsible for reviewing and
accepting donations of art. Over the years, donations of fine art declined, and the committee dissolved. We were prompted to review the policy and revise due to the donation of art by local artist Cordell Cordaro. City attorney Johanna Brennan worked with Director Uttaro to revise the language to reflect current practice and to clearly define the role and responsibility of the library in accepting, displaying, and caring for fine art. Copies of the redlined and cleaned revised policy are included with your packet.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the revised Fine Arts Gift Policy as presented.

**Report Items**

*Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting*

**Rundel Masonry Project Update**

The Library has partnered with the Department of Environmental Services to submit a Consolidated Funding Application to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, under the Historic Preservation category. The grant seeks funding for exterior masonry and window repairs, restoration and replacement at the Rundel building. A request of $1.9 million dollars would match the City’s current $1.3 million debt allocation for project design and construction.

As the Board is aware, approximately 25 feet of the parapet limestone cladding fell off the building into the river and balcony below in February 2019. LaBella engineers designed temporary bracing to stabilize additional unanchored limestone panels along the west parapet, installed by Heaster Building Restoration. In April 2019, LaBella conducted a drone and visual inspection of the parapet and identified five additional limestone panels that were no longer anchored to the structure and were in danger of falling. These panels were also immediately braced by Heaster to keep them from falling. At the same time, T.Y Lin International, the firm contracted for design of the Rundel Court Street terrace replacement project, conducted a limited walkthrough of the upper and lower stacks to evaluate the structural conditions and identify possible deficiencies in areas selected by architectural services and library staff. As a result, we can confirm the overall exterior and interior masonry needs exceed the initial funding allocated by the City in the 2017-18 capital improvement program.

City Architectural Services will issue a request for proposals in fall 2019, for a comprehensive evaluation, cost estimating, and recommended phased approach to the masonry repair for the Rundel building. We believe phasing is necessary to secure funding for overall needs, to work around the schedule for the north terrace project, and to leverage NYSED Division of Library Development construction grant funding.

As of today, the order of priority recommended by Library administration is to consider phasing by east terrace and façade, west (river) façade and balcony, and south and north façade with interior courtyard. Actions would include, but may not be limited to the following:

- Permanently secure the non-anchored limestone panels back to the structure, with a focus on the east terrace (public entrance) facing side first.
- Replace emergency exit stairwell from the Rundel building to the east terrace.
- Replace the fallen limestone along the west elevation, replicating original carvings.
- Repoint and seal limestone panel joints, working through the east, west, south and north sections of the building as phased with other priorities.
- Replace rusted and damaged window lintels in the light well (interior courtyard), and replace steel and aluminum windows.
We will keep the board informed as progress is made on these phased projects.

**Recommended Reading/Viewing**
- The Fiber of Democracy - [https://rochesterbeacon.com/2019/08/05/the-fiber-of-democracy/](https://rochesterbeacon.com/2019/08/05/the-fiber-of-democracy/)

**Upcoming Events**
- Charlotte Branch 100th Anniversary – Saturday, September 7 – events all day; cake at Noon!
- Crafting Democracy Exhibit Opening – Monday, September 16, 4:00 pm in Hacker Hall
- Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibit Opening – Monday, September 16, 6:00 pm in Rundel Second Floor Lobby
- MCLS/RPL Retirees Luncheon – Wednesday, September 18, 4:00 pm in Kusler Cox Auditorium
- PlayWalk Ribbon Cutting – Tuesday, September 23, 3:30 pm, location TBA
- Trustee & Director Symposium with attorney Stephanie Adams – Saturday, November 23, 9:00 am – Noon at Henrietta Public Library

**RPL Strategic Plan Progress** – A full report will be shared with the board at the August 28, meeting.

**Social Media Engagement, Alicia Gunther reporting**

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**Constant Contact Newsletter**

*Central*

Subscribers who opened newsletter – June- 887, July- 871
Click through – June-76, July-85

*RPL*

Subscribers who opened newsletter – June- 1,818, July- 1676
Click through – June-76, July- 49

New subscribers – 24

**OverDrive**

E-book & Audiobook Checkouts- 115,660
Magazine Checkouts- 4,899

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**Central Library Updates**

*Interim Associate Director Jennifer Lenio reporting*

**Art & Literature, Nanci Rosenberg-Nugent reporting**

**Programs**

- **Plaster and Sand Sculpture** – Artist Laura Jackett returned to do another popular craft program, teaching patrons how to create a piece of sculpture. Objects like sea shells and small toys were imbedded into wet sand. Plaster was then poured onto the sand where it hardened into the shape of the imbedded object. After hardening the object was popped out and cleaned to reveal a piece of sculpture. Patrons could take the sculpture home to be painted if desired.

- **There was plenty of music at Central throughout June, starting with a ukulele jug band jam lead by ukulele master Ron Gordon, and ending with Jazz Festival concerts.**

- **Resonanz**, the touring ensemble of the Rochester Oratorio Society (ROS), performed selections from Karl Jenkins’ masterwork “The Peacemakers.” Two young people from Teen Central read the inspiring words of Frederick Douglass as part of the performance. Librarian Mary Fraser created a bibliography of relevant books in Central’s collection that were provided at all performances of the work by ROS throughout Monroe County.

- **Crafting Democracy: SewGreen@Rochester.com** – Crafting Democracy is a new exhibit that will open in August. This exhibit draws upon handicraft to express hope, voice dissent, critique the curtailment of civil rights, comment politically and restore dignity to the human experience in the U.S. Along with the items on exhibit there will be handcrafted items for patrons to take with them. Librarian Melissa Manczuk hosted a “Craft It Forward” program with Georgia Carney from SewGreen@Rochester.com. For this class the Art Division’s sewing machines were used for Carney to instruct the students on how to make two types of flannel scarves. Students were also given supplies and detailed instructions so they could continue to create scarves at home. Scarves will be collected until September 30th, after which they will become part of the Crafting Democracy exhibit at Central, and available for the public to take. These warm scarves will also be available during StitchFest that occurs in October.
• Sketchbook Meetup – Nanci Nugent, Arts Division Librarian hosted a new program, Sketchbook Meetup. This is an informal group that allows artists to get together to sketch, talk, and share ideas. This was not a learn to draw class, but local artist Sara Blake was on hand to answer questions about applying tones, textures, color and to the sketch. This setting was enjoyed by patrons and all said they very much enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the chance to meet new artists. There is a second session in July and hopefully it will continue into the autumn months.

• The Book Binding Technique of the Japanese Stab Bound Book – This class is the first of three in Art Division’s bookbinding series. Local book artist Rebecca Lomuto instructed students in creating a book with using the Japanese Stab technique. This book is perfect for photo albums, journals, sketchbooks, or notebooks. This Japanese bookbinding technique allows each page to be an individual material, be it paper or fabric. Students may use the instructor’s supplies or bring their own. Lomuto described this method as one that is about 2000 years old that was used primarily in Asian countries. This binding is used many times for its simplicity as no glues are used and there is no folding required, only single sheets are used. This technique is a very good one for beginners. Students commented this was an easy beginner technique and they are looking forward to the next two classes.

Literature Programs
• The Literature Division hosted two new writing programs during June as part of the Rochester Writes series: Unfolding Pleasure: The Sentence Experience was a unique and in-depth writing experience examining the construction of sentences so that they have both an intellectual and emotional impact. Anais Salibian led this writing workshop and the following comments were made at the close of the series:
  “This class expanded my reading/writing horizons. Thank you!”
  “Anais brings enthusiasm to her classes, as well as positivity, support, and encouragement.”

• Researching & Writing About Rochester, taught by Lisa Kleman, combined research tips and sources with writing techniques and exercises to help create stories with vivid scenes, using concrete imagery with historically-accurate details. One student commented: “[I learned] so much about researching my story and how to organize my work. Lisa is an excellent teacher and writer.”

• Rochester Writes continued in July with two new classes – Overcome Writer’s Block and Social Media for Writers. Here are a few comments from some students in the Overcome Writer’s Block class with Alex Sanchez:
  “Thank you so much for having this! I’ve lived in a lot of places in the country and you have a great library here.” “It’s wonderful the library has these free writing programs.” “[The class] was amazing. Thank you, Central Library and Alex, for a beautifully paced, structured class. Bravo.”

Community Outreach
• Librarian Mary Fraser taught two ukulele classes at Lifespan’s Wolk Café in Sibley Square. The repertoire includes “Jambalaya,” and “This Land is Your Land,” and the group includes some enthusiastic singers. After one class, a student told Mary that learning to play the ukulele has been “life changing” for her, since it encouraged her to join a local ukulele jam session, and to begin a ukulele club at Lifespan. The benefits of learning to play ukulele are social, as well as musical!
• Origami Cranes - Melissa Manczuk of the Arts and Literature Division traveled to the Rochester Zen Center at the invitation of Jennifer Byrnes to teach the youth group how to make origami cranes. The group of children and adults were very excited to learn this traditional Japanese skill. They were told the story of Sadako Sasaki and the thousand paper cranes and how that connects to the traveling exhibit from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum on the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The exhibit will be at the Central Library in mid-September.

• Carol Moldt continues the library outreach efforts by making a connection with Valley Manor on East Ave as a book discussion group facilitator. The bestselling novel, Where the Crawfish Sing, was read and discussed by a very engaged group of 18 residents on July 10. In addition to facilitating the discussion, Moldt received a tour of the facility by one of the residents. The group has asked Moldt to return in August for a discussion of the historical novel, All the Light We Cannot See.

Ginny Ludwig, a Valley Manor resident and Central Library Brownbag Book discussion participant sent the following comment to Moldt: “I have talked to many of the people who attended, and everyone enjoyed the discussion. Many of them commented on how they liked the questions that you asked. I e-mailed Amy Discenza [Central Library Outreach Librarian] Wed. afternoon requesting the books for our next meeting. She delivered 14 books, and four sets of CDs to us by 1 PM Friday. I am in awe of the fantastic service that both of you have provided. Thank you so much for everything!”

Business & Social Sciences, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs
Sarah Bishopp Vélez hosted her final Business First Wednesday workshop, which also was the last one of the season. Dave Bassett, a patent agent, discussed basic intellectual property issues for small business owners. The 25 people in attendance were highly engaged and had many questions for Dave throughout his presentation. Bishopp Vélez learned a lot from hosting this workshop series in partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and will utilize this experience as she moves down to the Science Division again in July.

Small Business Consulting
Sarah Bishopp Vélez assisted several people this month with small business research, including information on food licenses, sample business plans, and market research for a cleaning service and restaurant. She also made several referrals to SCORE for mentoring.

Business Innovation Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting July 2019

Meetings
• Jennifer Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh met with Ana Liss, Managing Director for Business Development at Greater Rochester Enterprise (GRE), to discuss how the Carlson Center, Business Innovation Center, and GRE can work together to better serve the entrepreneurial community of the Rochester area. They discussed a potential project that will be pitched to GRE administration with a working title of “Because of Rochester” wherein we show the impact that Rochester has had on the devices that we use today.
• Meddaugh attended the Rochester 2034 Lunch and Learn presentation to learn about the vision for Rochester in the future.

Programs
• The Center hosted the BizKids group, camp participants used division resources to work on their business plans. The Rochester Institute of Technology purchased the BizKids camp from the City. We are hoping to expand our role with that program with the new leadership.
• The second Civic Saturday was held at the MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence.

Consulting
• Byrnes had eight scheduled meetings for market research, 28 via email, and two walk-ins.
• Carlson Center for Intellectual Property users: ten in person, one by email, one by mail, three by phone.
• Patent Virtual Assistance Center appointments - two
• 3D Printing Requests - three
• Lily Anthony has been getting all the necessary software updates needed for the Patent Center now that we have new computers.

Anecdotes
Byrnes is the 2020 president elect for the Public Libraries Section board of the New York Library Association.

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Meetings and Trainings
• Burton met with the last round of pediatric residents from the University of Rochester Medical School. The residents learn about programs and services in the community to share with their patients when visiting the clinic. We will continue this in the fall.
• Burton attended Welcoming Difference: An Introduction to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity. The workshop was presented by The National Coalition Building Institute of Rochester. The presenters helped participants explore the difference between diversity, inclusion and equity, to appreciate and take pride in the different groups (cultures) to which we belong, and to examine the misinformation and unconscious assumptions that influence our behavior towards others and ourselves. This is part of a series offered by Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC).

Outreach/Community Contacts
• Children’s Librarians Miranda Hazen and Katie Powell visited the Metro YMCA to offer story time to their seven preschool classes.
• In July Burton, Powell, and Raising A Reader Assistant Lauren Seaver offered outreach story times to 8 classes at the VOA summer program on a weekly basis for 3 weeks. They offered story times to children ages 3-9 and signed up all of the VOA’s summer program participants for the summer reading program and have a floating collection of diverse books for the classrooms. The children were very excited at each visit, and Lauren noted that multiple classes shouted, “Read it again, read it again!” when Lauren shared The Book With No Pictures during story time.
• Tonia Burton and Lauren Seaver offered a presentation on the MCLS’s inclusive services for children and families at Early Intervention service coordinator training. They are working with Early Intervention Providers to share the services and spaces member libraries offer. There have been two early intervention provider sites that have contacted Burton about separate staff training since the presentation.
Education and Engagement
The Children’s Center’s Girl Scout troop had its final two meetings for this school year and took a trip to Strong National Museum of Play. At the museum, the girls earned a badge and enjoyed exploring the exhibits. The Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library will be funding the troop next year, enabling us to continue the program and our partnership with Girl Scouts of Western New York.

Programs
We blasted off into Summer Reading 2019 with our theme “A Universe of Stories” with a large “book fair” type set-up in the Secret Room. Books and media of varying genre and reading levels were ready for kids to stock up for their summer. During the first few days, we signed up more than 50 kids for this year’s Summer Reading Program.

Exploration Stations
This continued collaboration with WXXI is in its fourth year. This year’s books were space-related, and each week brought special guests. Week one was based on the book Mooncakes for Baby by Grace Lin. Volunteers from Rochester’s Chinese story time group joined us to read the story in Mandarin and demonstrate how to make Moon Cakes. Participants made one moon cake and tasted it while learning about Chinese culture. For week two, children read the picture book version of The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. Dan Schneiderman, local Maker Consultant demonstrated how to use recycled computers and household items to create windmills. Kids had a great time taking computers apart! Schneiderman also participated in week four for Interstellar Cinderella by helping Makers create Steampunk Goggles for their travels in space. Participation has been lower than previous years. This year we sent more publicity information to our contacts and pushed events on social media. At the end of the summer, Burton will reach out to camp providers to find out how we can better serve their needs. We have heard the transportation is difficult for camps because using public transportation requires multiple bus trips if a bus does not have room for an entire camp, which means camps are separated and time spent is prohibitive.
Raising A Reader
In June surveys were gathered by Raising a Reader (RAR) implementers who attended various sites’ year end events to pass out blue library bags and books to families. RAR implementers also visited sites during drop off (Hart St, VOA) to gather more surveys and pass out blue bags and books. Implementers attended year end events at Early Head Start at North Street, Ibero, Joseph, Peter Castle, as well as School #57’s preschool and kindergarten graduations, and Hillside-Southwest’s preschool graduations. At one of these year-end events, a RAR Parent of the Year was chosen at the North Street event for her commitment to and passion for reading with her children. Lauren Seaver joined the RAR team in June as the new RAR point person/library assistant.

Circulation & Information, Chad Cunningham reporting
- New Borrowers- 395
- Access cards- 10
- Notarial Acts- 317

Programs
- Brian DiNitto taught 21 computer classes. 73 people attended.
- DiNitto added a class on using the NASA Globe Observer app with a focus on observing trees and sending the information to NASA. DiNitto also added a class on using Open Street Maps.

Circulation Anecdotes
- Chad Cunningham had several discussions with patrons about the change in renewals. Patrons are happy that they can renew items before the due date and not lose any borrowing time.
- Cunningham worked with a patron who had recently returned to Rochester to enter a rehab program. The patron felt strongly that being able to borrow books and movies from the library would help him adjust to his sobriety more readily.

Information Anecdotes
- Information staff assisted a patron who was writing her autobiography. They helped her with formatting, inserting pictures, and submitting her manuscript. She shared stories from her life with Information staff and fellow patrons in the computer lab. It was interesting, entertaining, and a nice moment of people coming together and sharing stories.
- Information staff helped a patron find a tax preparation site that he could afford. The patron, who is an executive chef at the U of R, was very grateful and brought in a red velvet cake for the staff as a thank you.
- A patron that Information staff have been helping with job search tips and resume preparation came in to let us know that he was hired by the county to work maintenance at the airport.
- A patron who is not confident about working with computers came in during the month of July needing help with an online home health aide course she had registered to take. Information staff helped her navigate the ins and outs of taking the course and the follow-up online test. They showed her how to lock her computer so she could take breaks during the multi-hour course. Their assistance allowed her to focus on her course work and not worry about the technical side of things.
Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs
- PT Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler presented one session in her popular TGIS: Think Genealogy It’s Saturday series in June at Central Library, entitled “Miscellaneous Tips.”
- June’s offering in the Rochester’s Rich History Series was with a tour of the Third Ward led by Corn Hill Historian James DeVinney. These two popular series will resume in September when the library reopens on Saturdays.

Exhibitions
- The Local History Exhibits Team (FT Historical Researcher Michelle Finn, PT Library Assistant Emily Morry, and PT Clerk Veronica Shaw) mounted a new exhibit in the division this month. Former Historical Researcher Amy Pepe also contributed to the exhibit prior to her departure. Everyday People: The Dinkle Family and Rochester’s African American Past features an African American family that has lived in the Rochester area since the 1870s. Tracing the family’s history through five generations, the exhibit highlights the experiences of family members that have intersected with large-scale historical developments, such as Black migration from the South to the North in the wake of the Civil War, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, the establishment of the Boy Scouts of America, and the changing demographic patterns in Rochester’s historic Third Ward (Corn Hill) neighborhood. On loan from Karen Dinkle Bunton and her husband, Jerry Bunton, both frequent patrons of the Rochester Public Library, the Dinkle family’s collection offers an unprecedented look at what life has been like for African Americans living in Rochester over the past 150 years. This exhibit will be on display until summer 2020. A reception with the family is planned for the fall; date and time to be determined.
- 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 Oswego- area suffragist and Medal of Honor recipient, Dr. Mary Walker. Nearly 140 people viewed the exhibit in June and July.

Community Outreach/Meetings
- Ridarsky led several tours of the Stonewall: 50 Years Out exhibit. Tour groups included groups from Allendale Columbia School, Downtown Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Historical Society, Highlands at Pittsford, and Valley Manor.
- Ridarsky participated in a conference call with the 1st and 2nd vice presidents of the Association of Public Historians of New York State to discuss the upcoming election of new officers and trustees. Ridarsky has been nominated for the position of president for a two year-term starting January 1, 2020.
- Ridarsky represented the library at a meeting at the Rochester Museum & Science Center about a plan to digitize as complete a run as possible of The Voice newspaper, published by Howard Coles. The newspaper
helped chronicle the lives of African Americans throughout the twentieth century and has been recognized as the longest continuously published African American newspaper in Rochester history. RMSC is interested in partnering with the library to make the digitized newspapers and, eventually, the Howard W. Coles papers available online. RMSC owns the collection, which was donated by Cole’s daughter Joan Coles Howard. For more information on the collection, see http://collections.rmsc.org/Library/ColesHoward_findingAid.pdf.

- Ridarsky attended a meeting of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House’s Votercade Planning Committee to learn about its plans for 2020 and how the City and the library might participate. Ridarsky also met with Deborah Hughes, Lisa Baron, and Michael Frisch to discuss a possible project to collect short-form oral histories as part of the 2020 celebration using the PixStori application that we used for the Stonewall: 50 Years Out exhibit.

- Finn led a historical walking tour of the Downtown Heritage Trail as part of the “Flower City Feeling Good” summer programming (July 18). A staggering 65 people turned up for this tour!

- Finn, Ridarsky, and RIT Archivist Elizabeth Call led a 2-day workshop for teachers in the Rochester City School District who are interested in participating in our upcoming program, National History Day for Rochester City Schools (July 31-August 1; 9 teachers participated).

- Finn and Ridarsky partnered with RIT history professor Michael Brown and City Councilmember Mitch Gruber to host a community conversation about the past, present, and future of the Broad Street Bridge (June 19; 35 attendees). This structure started out as the second aqueduct for the original Erie Canal (1842-1919), then became the bed for the Rochester Subway (1920s) and the bridge that carries Broad Street over the Genesee River (1920s-present day). Since at least the 1980s, the tunnel that passes through this bridge has been the site of a literat and cultural underground of graffiti artists and countercultural youth; it also provides shelter for people without homes. The artwork that is featured in this space is world-renowned, drawing forth both local and global tourists. The City of Rochester is currently considering how it might renovate this structure as part of its ROC the Riverway initiative. As public historians, Finn and Ridarsky seek to ensure that the public understands the full significance of this historical landmark so that people can bring an informed opinion to the conversation about its future.

- Finn submitted a proposal, “Exploring Collaboration Between Academic and Public Historians,” for the upcoming Researching New York conference. The panel she assembled includes herself, two academic historians (Michael Oberg, SUNY Geneseo, and Jose Torre, The College at Brockport, SUNY), and a current graduate student and former intern with the Office of the City Historian (Cheryl Sampson, Brockport). Finn’s proposal has been accepted, and the panel will present at the conference in Albany November 21-23.

- Finn and Ridarsky were invited to explore the archival materials at Thompson Reuters in order to assess whether there is anything that would be appropriate to transfer into the library’s special collections in anticipation of the company leaving Rochester (and its longstanding home in the historic Aqueduct Building) later this year. (July 18)

- Finn and Pellegrino fielded an inquiry from City Communications about the history of the Aqueduct/Broad Street Bridge (Finn) and Martin Luther King Jr. Park (Pellegrino). (July 30)

- In June Brandon Fess spoke before the monthly meeting of the Photographic Historical Society. His talk, entitled “Photographic Archives at the Rochester Public Library,” was an overview of our collections and how we provide access to them. The Society is largely focused on technical matters in the history of photography (the development of cameras, film stock, etc.), and found this diversion into a very different part of preserving photographic heritage fascinating. There were many valuable conversations that resulted after his talk, including offers of material assistance with our collections and of materials that would be valuable additions to our collection on Rochester’s rich history in the photographic industry.
Collection Development and Maintenance

- Part-time Clerk, Hope Christansen managed the intake of 155 donated books, and processed 51 items in June. She is refining the records of our yearbook collection as several novel items arrived as donations this month.
  
  **FY2019 Year-to-Date Summary**
  - Total Gift Books Accepted: 739
  - Total New Books Purchased: 23

- In July, Christansen managed the intake of 113 donated items. 92 of these were new to the Division. In addition to her usual work, Christensen processed 72 items.
  
  **FY2020 Year-to-Date Summary:**
  - Total Gift Books Accepted: 113
  - Total New Books Purchased: 0

Special Collections

- In June and July, Local History took in several new collections including the papers of Lois Greene Stone.
- Gabe Pellegrino accepted a copy of a ledger book from the New York Central East Rochester yards. He will pursue a Deed of Gift from donor.
- The Albert G. Smith papers have proven to be a particularly complex collection, the arrangement of which continued to be time-consuming. By the end of July we have completed the finding aids for the papers of Albert G. Smith (early Rochester merchant and investor), the Stewart family of Albion (noted bankers connected by marriage to Albert G. Smith), William F. Quinn (writings on esoteric thought, circa 1950), and John Adams Lowe (Rochester Public Library director, oversaw construction of the Rundel Building).

Rochester Voices

- There has been a great deal of progress on the Erie Canal for the Classroom project over the past two months. We hired Andrea Geglia as our educational consultant, and she began work on July 1 under the supervision of Historical Researcher Michelle Finn. Geglia submitted a list of potential learning experiences she could develop. Finn and Historical Services Consultant Christine Ridarsky circulated the list among some of our longstanding educational partners (4th grade teachers from various districts; Steve LaMorte, head of the Social Studies program for the Rochester City School District; staff at Second Avenue Learning; and others). Taking their feedback into account, Finn and Ridarsky identified which learning experiences they would like to incorporate into Rochester Voices. Geglia has begun working on these and will continue to do so in the upcoming months.

Social Media

Staff from the Local History and Genealogy Division contributed content for 8 blog entries on [www.rochistory.wordpress.com](http://www.rochistory.wordpress.com). The reach and engagement of these posts is not certain at this time. Alicia Gunther typically provides a breakdown of our social media. She is enjoying a well-deserved break and we will be able to provide these statistics shortly after her return. Part-time Library Assistant, Dr. Emily Morry contributed 5 blog entries this 2 month period: “Chasin’ the Past: Lost Jazz Clubs of Rochester,” Parts 1-4. She also contributed “Everyday People: a New Exhibit in Local History!” (7/30/19). Substitute Librarian Christopher Brennan contributed “Not for the Price of the Confederacy: The Story of Jennie Curtis” (6/11/19). He also contributed a second blog entry, “Congressional Prisoner of the Confederacy: Alfred Ely (1815-1892)” (6/18/19). Clerk Hope Christansen contributed one post, “What’s New in Local History?” (LHGD Newsletter. Vol 1. No. 1) (7/18/19).
Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference
RMC handled 2,408 reference questions and 754 non-reference transactions and for a total of 3,162.

Circulation
RMC rented 18 pieces of equipment and circulated 20,312 items or 51% of the Central Library’s circulation during June and July (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added). **When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, we circulated 31,268 items!**

Hoopla
Hoopla circulations for June and July totaled 2670. (1064 Audio Books, 675 Movies/TV, 457 EBooks, 267 Music, 207 Comics) Approximately 400 patrons used the service each month with 121 new users registering and 22% of patrons using all seven borrows. Each month about 129 users borrowed 5 or more items. Average cost was $2.07/item.

Stewardship and Curation
We have started looking into the feasibility of loaning Hotspots to all MCLS library card holders through the Reynolds Media Center.

Programs:
- Two presentations of the documentary Chasing the Moon in July.
- Encore Presentation of the film Milford Graves Full Mantis June 21
- First Friday film was The Upside June 7
- Saturday June 15 was the See It First movie, A Madea Family Funeral

Science & History Division, Jennifer Byrnes reporting June 2019

Meetings
- Jen Byrnes met with Laura Fox from Rochester Downtown Development Corp. to discuss how the library will partner with The Commissary, a food incubator opening in early 2020.
- Byrnes also attended the regional workforce development meeting at Monroe Community College.
- Kate Meddaugh met with Bridget O’Brien, Economic Development Specialist to discuss the resources of the Carlson Center, and to establish a relationship between Monroe County Economic Development and the library. Also discussed was the Imagine Monroe programs, and how people qualify for these.

Programs
- Rochester’s first Civic Saturday was held and was well received. The next one will be July 27th at the Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence.
- Got Health: High Blood Pressure; presented by Scott Matthews, MD, Preventative Medicine Resident, University of Rochester Medical Center.

Partner Statistics
- LROC – 43
- Volunteer Legal Services Project – 10
- Nurse Barb - 37
• 360 Collaborative Network Referrals – 3

Training
Byrnes and Meddaugh attended the Light, Sound Interactive conference, specifically the Department of Defense’s incentives and programs for innovators and entrepreneurs. Particularly of interest were the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs. Virtual Reality and new technological developments were exhibited as well, including a walk on a plank off a 132-story building!

Outreach
• Steve Nash was asked by the Greece United Substitute Teachers to speak at their spring meeting. He discussed Central’s resources and our specialized divisions. Science and History was highlighted. People were appreciative about the information and literature passed out. Also, Nash was invited by the Greece Historical Society & Museum (GHS) to their Annual Strawberry Festival and did outreach. The event was held at GHS grounds and featured invited community groups, tastings and music. He did library outreach and spoke with many attendees.

Consulting
• Carlson Center for Intellectual Property: 22 in person, one by email, one by mail, nine by phone, three Virtual Patent Center appointments, 132 Webpage views. Ask the Experts Program: Meddaugh held Office Hours at Venture Creations Incubator at RIT.
• Lily Anthony worked with Alicia Gunther to update the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property website. It should be current and have all the correct information. Anthony has also been learning how to use 3D computer modeling software to help assist patrons in drawing up prototypes.

Anecdotes
• Byrnes completed her advanced certificate in public library administration from Long Island University.
• Levi conducted a tour for the Deputy Mayor of Wurzburg, Germany, our Sister City and her host Dean Ekberg. The Deputy Mayor, Marion Schafer-Blake was delightfully surprised by all the programs and happenings at the Central Library. She kept saying “that is so wonderful that you have all these programs and services for your patrons. Rochester is a very lucky community to have such a great Library.”
• A retired U.S. Marine and library supporter asked Nash if there was a list of U.S. Marines from Rochester/Monroe County who were killed during the Korean War. Nash located a list of these individuals and did research on an individual and located the burial site (Holy Sepulchre). The local Marine Veterans of
Foreign Wars group is planning a recognition ceremony and Steve will be assisting with the location of further information on these fallen soldiers.

**Sciences & History Division, Darlene Richards reporting July 2019**

July was the month of moving staff and moving parts of the collections. Staff settled in their new locations. Thanks to the help of maintenance and organization by Cynthia Dana and Jen Lenio. The second phase was moving the Job Information Center down to the third floor. It was truly a team effort, with planning, measuring and shifting done by the whole team. Kathy Sochia assisted with this move along with our clerks Matthew Sherman and Elizabeth Jones. Jones organized the job resources, handouts and provided some suggestions for arranging some of the collection.

**Meetings**

- Marcia Middleton and Becca Youmell from the University of Rochester Medical Center’s (URMC) Center for Community Health & Prevention met with Sarah Bishopp Velez to plan for the next season of Got Health programming. Sarah held the meeting in the Health Central glass room, which pleased Marcia since she had never seen the space. Sarah, Marcia, and Becca went over the proposed schedule and list of topics for the upcoming year. They also discussed any issues that took place last season, and possible ways to solve them. The chief dilemma seems to be effective marketing; attendance has been slowly declining over the past year. Sarah said she would investigate additional marketing strategies to boost attendance.

- Sarah met with Dr. Theresa Green and Carolyn Settle to discuss the upcoming rotation for the University of Rochester Community Health Improvement Course students. Each month - September through November and again in March - a 4th year medical student from the Community Health Improvement Course (CHIC) spends time in the library to gain valuable experience working with the community. The students help staff Health Central by answering health questions and doing basic biometric screenings. They also work on self-directed projects or assist library staff with a pre-determined project related to community health. During their meeting, Bishopp, Dr. Green, and Carolyn brainstormed what some of these projects could be. They came up with many great ideas that are sure to keep the students engaged as well as benefit library patrons.

**Partner Statistics**

**LROC Stats**

- Social Work Cases - 41

**Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County (VLSP) - 7**

**Nurse Barb Stats**

- 21 people served

**Grant Resource Center**

Darlene Richards has been fielding many calls for appointments for the Grants Resource Center. The Grants Resource Center is now on the third floor and she had her very first appointment in the new location with two representatives from Asbury First Methodist Church. She learned all about the services they provide. They have had a Community Ministry Dining Caring Center for twenty years. Asbury First Methodist Church provides 40,000 meals a year and 100 meals a day. The church is also a historic landmark with a storehouse program with 400 agencies and shopping for families. They have a program for people who have experienced trauma and people who are suddenly homeless or refugees. Richards provided an overview of the database as well as information about LROC and Health Central. She also showed them an overview of Overdrive and the books they could access on grant writing.
Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

**Programs**
- Teen Central has begun its summer reading program. Each week prizes will be given away to teens completing their reading requirements. One of our regular teens, DJ graduated this month. He uses the moniker Phoenix for recording his music. He’s an avid musician who will begin studying music recording in the fall at FLCC.
- Shawn Dunwoody invited some of the teens on June 27, to come and paint with him at MLK Park.
- Teen Librarian Antoine McDonald reports that for the month of July, each of the programs for this month was meant to address a summer theme. The Science Experiment day was meant to be a part of the out of this universe summer reading theme. I wanted to incorporate science into a program so I was able to put together a couple of ideas that the teens would enjoy. We tried making slime with the traditional ingredients as well as with some modifications to the ingredient list. I was also able to check out some science kits from the Science department on the third floor of the library. The teens and I were able to interact with a Hydro powered toy car, a Little Bits: Gizmos and Gadgets kit and an Identification of Skelton remains kit. We also were able to set up a nice display showcasing the selected reading materials for this year’s Summer Reading list. This was a quick and easy display categorized by grade level that is extremely accessible and convenient for teens and families that will be up throughout the summer and into the upcoming school year.
- In July we had a great Naruto tournament. Over 25 kids participated.
- We ran several ping pong competitions. Staff joined in.
- Summer reading continues. Kids are putting in their picks of the week and getting prizes.

July in Teen Central

https://youtu.be/LRe9zf7gveo
Outreach/Community Contacts
• Dennis worked with Justin Ortiz (generation youth), Action for a Better Community, RIT, SUNY Geneseo, Community Place, The Urban League, Thomas Cuyler, Common Health, MCC-- the Liberty Partnership, the Youth Ambassadors’ of the Genesee Valley Trust, and SUNY Brockport to set up and house tens of programs that we are now executing. Most of them either rely on the imagineYOU Media Lab and Jeff, John, and Dennis’ expertise, or require space to run their programming.

imagineYOU Media Lab – Jeffery Bostic reporting
• 570 Visitors
• The imagineYOU lab has produced it first official music video. Z3ke Nova is the artist. https://youtu.be/PlfzhuWnCrw Subscribe and like his channel if you will.

YOUN MEDIA Hangout
This month imagineYOU participated in the YouMedia hangout. We were able to discuss summer programming, digital media community help, and food in our media spaces. We have gained some resources and knowledge through the meeting with possible future college connections for our teens.

Virtual Reality
• A teen has finally reached the ability to play at the highest level (Expert+) on BeatSaber. Several new youths tried out the VR station and had a blast this month.
• Also, in July the Oculus Rift has been moved to Teen Central. Youth are better able to utilize the virtual reality station while student groups utilize the lab.

Seminar
On July 1st imagineYOU was able to teach an interview seminar to the staff and students of SUNY Brockport’s TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) and ROC City Careers Exploration Program. They learned some of the basics of the interview process and were able to practice with both imagineYOU staff and equipment.

A.B.C./A.I.MM
Action for a Better Community and The Adolescents Inspiring through Multi-Media began utilizing the lab this month. Their goal is to produce a short film. They have used the lab for script writing, advertising, photography, sound recording, and editing.

Media LAB
The lab was able to help Grace Unity Fellowship Church design a shirt for their festival.

Youth Environmental Ambassadors
The Y.E.A. group is utilizing the lab to create a documentary about water quality and plastics. They are using the computers and recording studio in post-production putting together their documentary.
Branch Library Updates
Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

Branch Facilities and Operations Plan
Currently, I’m in the process of meeting with an assigned architect to discuss the design development plans for the Lincoln Public Library based on recommendations from the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan. We had a productive meeting with staff and the architect, who will be working on bringing in a designer. Staff had excellent ideas to share. We will also begin meeting with community members and Maplewood staff to start discussions about the next steps towards a new building for Maplewood.

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, provided written reports and recommendations for each branch location. Site supervisors had 60 days to make corrections, and order recommended supplies. Follow up inspections will be conducted during the months of August and September. A final report will be submitted to senior management with recommendations for improvements.

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. We will continue to partner with VLSP and grow services as needed.

Training Module for Site Supervisors
I’ve been working on a training Module for the site supervisors that would focus on Leadership Development. I met with the City of Rochester 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. The Leadership Development Training will focus on leadership styles, project management, business writing, coaching, community engagement, and data collection and interpretations.

Policies and Procedures Committee-RPL
I’m working with this committee to evaluate and revise all RPL policies and procedures in addition to recommending new changes and an archival process. The goal is to standardize as many policies and procedures across all RPL Branch and Central locations as possible.

Strive Together Team
I attend monthly meetings with my Roc The Future, Strive Together Team. Strive Together is a national non-profit organization created to build the capacity of communities to dramatically improve outcomes for every child from cradle to career by providing strategic assistance, network communications and high-quality resources. Our goal is to align our resources to increase literacy rates among school-aged children in Rochester, New York. In July representatives from Cincinnati, Ohio visited Rochester to observe our meeting with the Early Grade Literacy Outcomes Team.
Outreach, Patricia Connor reporting

Programs
Although April 2020 seems far away; it is coming up quickly. Patricia Connor traveled to Baldwinsville, NY to attend a summit about the 2020 Census. A lot of information was gathered about how important it is for libraries to get on board with making sure that there is a complete count in 2020. Libraries will be one of the places that people will be looking to have their questions answered. Connor will be sharing the information she learned with the branch librarians so that everyone in Rochester can be counted. (Priority #1—Education and Engagement)

Community Outreach
- Nancy Cholewa (Arnett Branch) and Carmen Gonzalez (Sully Branch) joined Patricia Connor at Frontier Field early in the month for the Summer Meals Fest. Once again, the Prize Wheel was a big hit. The kids (and adults) enjoyed talking about the book character they were asked to identify. Several children were registered for their first library card. The organizers said they felt the crowd was lower than in the past because of the great weather that day but the Library table was always hopping. Thanks go out to Cholewa and Gonzalez for answering the call for help.
- The second scheduled Northwest Service Center was held in the Sacred Heart parking lot for residents in the Maplewood neighborhood. Connor distributed books along with branch library program information. Several people asked about computer classes and they were referred to the Central Computer lab as well as given information about one-to-one opportunities at the Maplewood branch. (Priority #2—Sustainability and Resources)
- Stephen Nash (Central Library), Joanne Bauer (Greece-Barnard) and Connor staffed the Monroe County Library System table at the Red Wings Camp Day. The campers who visited the table were given a card game to play—what is bigger, what is hotter, what is farthest away? Tonia Burton found the game on a NASA education site and they had a lot of fun working cooperatively to put the cards in order. (Priority #2—Sustainability and Resources)
- Two other Outreach events were scheduled—the Northwest Quadrant Charlotte outreach was cancelled. Joan Lee staffed the table at the Northwest Family Fund Day Health Fair at Jones Square Park when Connor was called to substitute at the Charlotte Branch. Lee reports an exhausting but fun afternoon.

Community Meetings
- This month Connor attended meetings of the Charlotte Neighborhood Association, the Rochester City School District School Librarians Council, the Maplewood Neighborhood Association, the Bensonhurst Neighborhood Council, and the Northwest Quadrant Service Team. While waiting for the start of the Edgerton Neighborhood Association meeting (which was subsequently cancelled), Connor made a connection with Pastor Wilfredo Irizarry of Adonai Assembly of God of Rochester. They are a sponsor of the Northwest Family Fun Day Health Fair at Jones Park; an event being planned for late July. Arrangements are underway for the library to table at this event.
- Connor represented Branch Administration at the Southeast Neighborhood Service Center team meeting and the LROC meeting as well as several neighborhood association meetings.

Anecdotes/Other
Connor and Xandi DiMatteo facilitated a meeting of the adult services librarians from the branch libraries. Discussion centered on the results for a program survey that DiMatteo had conducted in February. Programming ideas were shared as well as branch information and opportunities for Outreach. The group hopes to meet on a quarterly basis.
Outreach, Xandi DiMatteo reporting

Narrative & Community Contact Building

I concentrated on examining outside agencies to see what they offer that is not offered by the libraries in Rochester.

- The Brainery offers: architecture walking tours ($20), art courses ($30 - $160), some metal working courses ($60 - $360) and food & beverage programs ($15 - $65).
- Jewish Community Center (JCC) offers: fitness programs ($10 - $180), cultural arts (ticketed events) and computer courses ($15 - $55).
  JCC also offers SilverSneakers® Yoga (Participants’ costs can be covered by Medicare. Instructor needs to be paid.) Move your whole body through a complete series of seated and standing yoga poses. Chair support is offered to safely perform a variety of postures designed to increase flexibility, balance, and range of movement. Suitable for all skill levels.

Safe To Be Smart, Derrick Coley reporting

The Arnett site: Shetora Banks has been doing a lot of gang intervention at the Arnett branch in the aftermath of the most recent shooting in close proximity of the library. The high levels of community violence have lowered the youth numbers in STBS. She continues to assist teens with job applications and employment leads. Banks has been using card and board games to interact with the teens to see if they are negatively affected by the violence during their talks. Banks recognized teens that are on track to graduate this year and have gained employment.

The Phillis Wheatley site: Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford and the Children’s Librarian Alexandra Haehn took the youth outside to spend a day in the community garden. The youth assisted with soil preparation and planting of various flowers and vegetables. Bostick-Beckford facilitated the “Mix and Mingle” with assistance from the Children’s Librarian. Ice cream sundaes and sandwiches were the theme. She had the youth make Father’s Day cards with craft materials. The S.T.E.A.M program that she provided to youth was called “Lowing Space Putty.” The putty was made from non-toxic household items. She assisted recruiting youth for the American Dolls Space Program with the Children’s Librarian.

The Maplewood site: The Maplewood youth showed Dixon much love as he continues on his career journey with full-time work at the Hillside Children’s Center Trahey School. Dixon served the youth in libraries for over 10 years with the Safe To Be Smart program at both the Central and Maplewood libraries. We wish Dixon the best and he will be missed by our staff and youth. We conducted interviews for the vacant youth service assistant position. The paperwork has been submitted on the selected candidate to the personnel office. Programming is being conducted by the Tween Librarian until the Safe To Be Smart candidate is hired.

The Lincoln site: Vera Haygood continues to provide internet assistance for teens with homework help, email, job search, and applications. Also, she conducted a STEM food program that taught the teens how to make tacos from scratch. The teens seldom cook meals for themselves at home so this process taught them how to be organized, follow directions and watch everything while cooking. In addition, Haygood facilitated the, “Teen Challenge Weekly Trivia Contest” with prizes for highest point total for correct answers. The Teen Challenge allows youth to gain knowledge through trivia. Haygood assisted the YA/librarian recruit youth for special summer programming with Rochester Fencing Club and Wild Wings animal exhibit.

The Sully site: George Carter facilitated a reading program for why people vote on Tuesday. The youth were able to look up documents in Google and library resources. The YA/librarian Jacob assisted with the program.
Carter continues to provide chess instruction to willing teens, children and adults. Carter continues to provide job readiness assistance and job leads to teens looking for work. Also, Carter facilitated a teen talk on violence in the community and collaborated with the Thomas Ryan recreation center front-line staff. He held a Coup game tournament for teens. The card game is a mystery whodunnit game with clues coming from the various players.

Teen Central site: Lydia Williams and John Hylton celebrated the “Shining Teens” for the month of June. A teen male that was a late graduate proved that he could stay out of gang activity and change his life for the better by getting employed as a church musician (drummer). Hylton and Antoine McDonald have conducted meetings with artist Chloe Smith and teens for the Link Interactive Mural Project. Smith has submitted a scaled down version of the artwork which was submitted to Director Patty Uttaro. Williams organized a retirement celebration for YA/librarian Melora Miller for 30 years of service. Hylton held a ping pong tournament called, “Defeat Mr. J” with prizes. Also, Williams has tracked over 60 high school graduates for 2019, who frequent the Teen Central space. Williams and Hylton celebrated the “Shining Teen” for the month of July. The teen picked was Joseph a new page at the Lyell Branch Library and everyday TeenCentral teen for years. The staff at TeenCentral is proud of Joseph and they let him know it. Williams and Hylton hosted pizza appreciation day for the teens. This event was because the teens assisted with the clean-up of the teen space and they role-modeled good behavior to their peers by participating in programming.

Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs
- Arnett conducted many well received and well attended kids’ programs, including visits from the Seneca Park Zoo, the Genesee Country Museum Tinsmith, 19th Century Games educators and Building Families First’s African Drums Educator. Other popular programs were various story-times, LEGO clubs and Prudence Anderson-Leusch’s Arts and Crafts programs.
- Cholewa’s programs for July began with a young adult book club – Pizza and Pages – Love Like Sky. This is a book written by a woman who grew up on Arnett Blvd and considers Arnett Branch her childhood library. Arnett received 12 free books from the Genesee Women’s Foundation which were distributed the first week in July. Some of the kids already had a copy of the book and we had two copies in our library collection, so we were able to get books to all 15 of our club members. Over the next four weeks, we had a rotating population attending our weekly meetings. Many of the members who were unable to make the Monday meetings stopped in to talk about the book during the week. During our final meeting Leslie C Youngblood, the author, joined us for a thirty-minute question and answer session. It was a great experience for the kids that were able to attend and for the adults, as well.
- The TASC tutoring program has ended for the school year but not without another success story. Damon (originally from Baltimore, MD) came to TASC with a mission to be a positive role model in his daughter’s life. His daughter is 10 years old and lives with her mother in GA. Damon wanted to set an example on the importance of education and the importance of having a diploma. He and his daughter’s mother made an agreement that if he earned his diploma, he would be able to increase his involvement with his daughter. Damon was enrolled in REOC TASC when he started attending TASC at the library in February. He has worked with Jim at both the Lyell and Lincoln library before permanently coming to Arnett. Damon additionally joined the BOCES TASC program for even more involvement. Damon took the TASC Exam for the first time on May 28, 2019 and passed all five sub-tests with scores ranging from the 530’s to the 560’s (500 is passing score). Congratulations to Damon on his accomplishment.

Community Outreach/Meeting
Many of our outreach events this month fell at the same time. Clerk Colleen Murray and Branch Administration Librarian Jennifer Reisch stepped up, and each made a visit to the Westside Farmers Market in June. I brought Books by Bike to another Westside Farmers Market session where I gave several University of Rochester students library cards. I also brought Books by Bike to a Rochester Police Department (RPD) event at the Roxy Sinkler Recreation Center. I was the first person to arrive at the event and I set Books by Bike against a fence while I waited to see where I should set up. As RPD officers and other presenters arrived they decided where I was resting was a good place for all of us to set up. I originally had planned on moving Books by Bike away from the fence, but I realized the kids were enjoying the extra challenge of climbing up to reach the books, so I left it there. A bunch of the children at this event have since shown up at Arnett in recent days.

Arnett engaged in six outreach events during July (Four Farmer’s markets, one Rochester Police children’s event and a local block club meeting). Books By Bike was used at three of the events. Bruce Tehan, Bruce Wilbur, and Ginger Brewer-Bennett were the attendees at the various events.

Anecdotes/Other
Our biggest event was Game Day in the Garden. At this event, children from School 16, which recently reoccupied their renovated building in the 19th Ward came to the library and the garden next door to the library to play games, enjoy story-times, learn about our summer reading program and receive library cards. An estimated 240 library cards were issued to the kids from School 16. The students and staff from School 16, Rochester Rec on The Move, the Arnett Block Club and the Arnett Friends all teamed up with the Arnett Library to make this event a wonderful success.

Our outstanding Safe to be Smart Library Assistant Shetora Banks was honored by a local organization for her fine work at the Arnett Branch Library. Here is the link to the article about Ms. Banks: https://540westmain.org/2019/06/30/black-women-roc-spotlight-interview-shetora-banks-2/

(Priority #3 Stewardship and Curation: Develop, support and Appreciate staff)
Programs

- So far, children’s summer activities have had good attendance. We have had good numbers of drop-ins since school let out. The kick-off for the summer reading program was held on June 27, and attracted a crowd. The featured event was an exotic animal program conducted by Mini Ark Farms. The kids were able to get close to hedgehogs, chameleons, pigeons, tortoises, snakes, alligators and more. The following day we had a children’s cooking program entitled “Galaxy Goodies” (the summer reading theme is “A Universe of Stories”) and that got a solid turnout, too. One parent even tried to give the presenter money because she was so pleased with the program. The presenter referred her to children’s librarian Kim Whittemore. Kim told the patron that the program was without charge so she couldn’t accept payment but, invited her to make a donation to RPL anytime she wished. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations.)

- The summer Bubbles & Chalk program has a devoted following this year. This informal program takes children out to the library lawn twice a week to draw on the sidewalk, blow soap bubbles, skip-ropes and get some fresh air and exercise. We’ve consistently been seeing groups of 7 to 10 children for each session, plus the moms and grandmas that bring them. On one particularly memorable Bubbles & Chalk day, Dr. Reeves showed up for her monthly meeting with the site supervisor and, seeing that we were somewhat shorthanded, she pitched right in to help with the program. Not only is she great with kids, it turns out she was quite a hopscotcher and rope-skipper in her day. It was delightful to have her participation. Thanks, Dr. Reeves!

- We’ve been able to maintain our weekly summer story time at the beach, which has been a Charlotte summer activity for a number of years. Kim covered some of the days, and librarian Caitlyn Stahovic-Barnes of the Douglass Branch filled in when we needed her. Stahovic-Barnes is a former Charlotte employee and does a fine story time, so we felt confident we could depend on her, and we were right. Everything went beautifully. Thanks, Caitlyn!

Anecdotes

September marks Charlotte Library’s 100th anniversary, and plans to celebrate are moving along. In July we booked our performers. Our First Thursday local history lecture on September 5, will feature former Charlotte librarian Maureen Whalen discussing the library’s history. On Saturday, September 7, we’ll have a day of family festivities including a petting zoo, a face painter, and a comedy magic show. Abbott’s, a Charlotte institution, has offered to bring some ice cream, and Charlotte Community Association will bring other snacks. Corinne Clar of RPL Graphics has been invaluable in helping us design commemorative tote bags and advertising fliers. Corinne is a joy to work with – everything always goes smoothly, and the finished product is always top-notch. Debi Mansour of the RPL Director’s Office has kindly been assisting us with other communications. And of course, all this is made possible by a generous grant from Friends & Foundation Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

Stahovic-Barnes and Literacy Aide Isaac Lewis have started crafting with the kids every week. Each week is a new project. Projects this month included paper popsicles, Father’s Day cards and bookmarks. The bookmarks were the most popular.
Anecdotes/Other

- Stahovic-Barnes spent June planning for the busy month of July by making sure programming was in place. She helped students end the school year by helping with the last of the homework and preparing for exams. One family Stahovic-Barnes had been helping throughout the school year presented her and Sarah Ngo with flowers and strawberries as a thank-you for all the homework help. One sibling that Stahovic-Barnes helped study for finals said her exams were “really, really easy.”

- Rochester Childfirst Network (RCN): Ngo did one last story time for each classroom before the end of the school year and she attended her classroom’s moving up ceremonies. For her third Strawberry Festival, Ngo had a small table for promoting summer programs and reading. She signed up 3 children for library cards and gave away small toys, pencils, and stickers. Total Participation: 68 (story times) 200 (Strawberry Festival)

Anecdotes/Other

Rochester Childfirst Network (RCN) also did a Facebook feature on Ngo. Here is what was posted:

We have the good fortune to be right next door to the Frederick Douglass Community Library. Their children’s librarian, Sarah Ngo, is a good friend to RCN. She works with many of our teachers here in our classrooms, at the library, and in Highland Park. Here is what an RCN teacher, Ms. Ashley, has to say about her: “Sarah Ngo is amazing! She puts her heart into the children here at RCN. She has supported dance recitals, baseball games, moving-up ceremonies. She’s involved with our Strawberry Festival. She’s caring and even at times when we (teachers) think our students aren’t behaving or listening to her story time, or just screaming with excitement, she will tell the adults ‘it’s ok, they are no bother. THEY ARE KIDS!’ She’s organized and ready for my students every Thursday at 10 am. I truly thank her for all that she does for RCN and her community.”

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- July was a fantastic month at the Toy Library. Our numbers for the month totaled 1208. We accommodated 40 groups with 284 people. Groups signed up for weekly visits of one hour. We also learned that the maximum number of people allowed in the room is 37 and we watched to be sure we didn't exceed that number. We believe the experience for everyone was more enjoyable this summer without the overcrowding.

- The Toy Library offered five weeks of thematic play in the entry portion of our space. The topics were: Space Exploration. Science Lab, Café Lincoln, Super heroes and Veterinary Clinic.
The Toy Library was featured in the Mayor’s What's Good in Rochester campaign, and at last count the video was viewed 6000 times. You can view the video on the mayor’s Facebook page.

Our new clerk started on the 24th. Her name is Tashara Martinez, and she is learning the job quickly and with confidence. Our Literacy Aid Caila Lee is also doing a great job. We found that she can assemble toys requiring tools, a real bonus. Despite the high number of visitors, we have been able to accession toys donated by both patrons and from the Pirate Toy Fund.

The Rochester Fire Department came to visit the Lincoln branch on the perfect day! It was already a scorching 86 degrees when the Fire Department visited in the morning. The kids were happy to learn how to use the hose and cool off a bit in the water! Afterwards, they got to see the inside of the truck and learn all about the different equipment and fire safety rules from our visitors.

Library assistant, Jasmine Santiago reports that on June 14, Peter Castle Daycare came to visit the Lincoln Branch for their end of year ceremonies. The parents involved in Raising A Reader this year were rewarded with free children’s books and a Raising A Reader tote bag. Each parent was given a survey to show if the program improved the literacy in the household or not. It was a delight to see how many families not only participated but were positively impacted by participating in the program this year.

Santiago showed support at the Ibero Children’s Center with J Librarian Katie Powell. They gave out books and advertised the on-going programs available at each of their libraries. It was a great opportunity to let parents know about the Toy Library too. Santiago and Powell handed out surveys to see how Raising A Reader impacted these households as well. There was a lot of positive feedback from this group. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships)

On June 26, the Foodlink Summertime Meals program began at Lincoln. In the midst of all the bustle, Library Assistant Santiago had her fair share of requests for peeling oranges. All-in-all, it has been a successful event. The Lincoln Branch has even acquired some new regulars who visit almost every day!

Tim Ryan assisted a teen patron who was having problems with her resume. The teen had logged into one of those “scam” resume building sites that make it appear they are free, then charge you a fee to retrieve your resume. The teen was quite anxious and clearly upset that she had been scammed by this site. Tim eased her concerns and showed her how she could take a screen shot of the resume, then crop it in MS Paint, then copy and paste it into MS Word, then scan the document and send it to her email as a PDF so she could upload it to various jobs site. The teen was very impressed and relieved as she had spent over an hour putting her resume together. She left very happy and with renewed confidence as she went to apply for jobs.

During the month of July, we had a wonderful program at Lincoln that taught basic Japanese speaking and writing. The program was taught and is offered by one of Lincoln's high school volunteers, Pat. She gave two separate hour-long interactive programs complete with a great PowerPoint presentation coupled with several hands-on writing activities. The teens that attended the program had a great time and were very engaged. The teens asked to have Pat come again so that they could continue to learn more. We plan to schedule this program again in the near future and keep building off the success of the initial program offering.
• We continue to hold the Neighbors as Partners (NAP) discussion meetings at Lincoln on the first and third Tuesday of the month with a regular attendance.
• The women from the Neighbors as Partners group have been working on a beautiful community quilt throughout the last few months and they have officially finished the quilt! Several of the women in the NAP group are from Gee’s Bend, Alabama. In early 2000’s, Gee’s Bend became famous for beautiful quilts created by the women there. The quilt created by the NAP group was done with this style in mind and the group loved learning all about the quilters of Gee’s Bend. They held a raffle and one of the women was lucky enough to take the quilt home with them. Several of the women in the In August, they will have a visit from Cornell Cooperative Extension talking about healthy eating.
• Due to an increase in violence in the area, the Rochester Police Department and North East Neighborhood Service Center organized a pop-up outreach event and invited the library to join. We were very happy to be part of the event.
• July was the first month that the Curbside Market from Foodlink came to visit the library. They had a few visitors each time and we look forward to the group growing!

Anecdotes/Other
• Lincoln also had its first ‘closed to the public’ day in late June. We worked on cleaning up storage spaces, staff desk areas and we had a staff meeting where almost all the Lincoln staff were able to attend at once. At our staff meeting we had a visit from Pathways to Peace representatives, including the individual who covers the area of the city where Lincoln is located. The representatives were able to tell us more about what Pathways to Peace does, how they can help the teens at Lincoln and what local neighborhood gang indicators we should keep an eye out for over the summer.
• Tim Ryan was able to assist a patron with obtaining a birth certificate for her oldest son so that he could get his driver’s license. She was very anxious and had been having a great deal of difficulty before arriving at the library. She explained that she wasn’t good with computers and that she had been having difficulty getting the birth certificate because the hospital was in New Jersey. Her son also needed his license as soon as possible for a new job he was starting. Tim sat down with her and used the information she had brought, and in just a few minutes Tim was able to locate the information and order the birth certificate for her. The patron was extremely happy and grateful for the time Tim spent helping her and her son.
• The Roc Paint murals have been officially completed and installed in the Lincoln Library. We had a wonderful celebration event at the library to show off the new additions to the children’s section and to listen to a story read by Taleah Elliot, the young girl featured in many of the murals. *(Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships)*

• We attended two outreach events in July- the Joseph Ave Business Association Annual Festival and a pop-up outreach event organized by the North East Neighborhood Service Center and the Rochester Police Department. Although it was a record-breaking heat day at 94 degrees, we had a fantastic time at the JABA annual festival and gave away over 50 books. Attendance to the event was much lower than usual due to the high heat however those that attended were very enthusiastic and happy to be there.

**Lyell Branch, Shamika Fusco reporting**

**Programs**

• Summer Reading has been going well. We are very impressed at the level of self-motivation here at Lyell. Granted, some of that motivation comes from wanting the next check in prize. We accept being read to, so a few times, when a bunch of kids were 1 star away from check-in, Sue will grab a book, and have an impromptu read aloud. We are very proud of the progress made by our kids this summer.

• Baby Bee Reading Program- Families with little ones were given the option to participate in summer reading but on a smaller scale. The following sheet was created so that parents could participate in various forms of learning with the baby. Completed sheets earn bubbles and books!

• African Drums- This was a really excellent program! Mayukwa and his friend were really excellent at speaking with and encouraging the crowd. The boy (young men) who attended had a grand time, sharing beats on various drums. There was some dancing, which I was more into, but the boys did their share of bopping around and getting into the groove.

• PlayROCs Your neighborhood- PlayROCs was the city-wide event where we bring play back to the outdoor spaces. PlayROCs is a community effort to let kids be kids and enjoy their outdoor play spaces again. Much fun was had with spray chalk on the sidewalks and parking lot, and with the ghost of lines still surviving rain storms, it brings a smile to my face every time we come to work.
- Summer Ice Cream Social- We kicked off summer by having an Ice Cream Social with LuGia’s. Families were happy to have a nice cool treat. The weather was absolutely perfect. An employee from Markson’s furniture came over and we chatted about possibly co-hosting the event next year for a bigger turn out.

- Juneteenth Celebration- In honor of Juneteenth, we celebrated by having traditional African American cuisine. Black eyed peas, rice, collard greens, cornbread and sweet potatoes were served. Patrons were very excited to learn the history of Juneteenth and that the library community was recognizing it.

- June’s Produce Distribution- This month we celebrated our one year Produce distribution anniversary. Jennifer applied for the NYLA’s 2019 Public Library Service Innovative Award for consideration for our Produce Distribution program co-sponsored by the Lyell Branch Library & LONA. An 11-page document was written with a separate table outlining our entire year of volunteers & community participants in our very successful Produce Distribution program. Six letters of support were enthusiastically written on behalf of our program. 12 families were served in July. Two little girls were also volunteering and because they had a big family we assisted them with carrying their three bags partially home via our adjacent back parking lot. We had 13 volunteers total on Saturday. (Priority#2 Sustainability & Resources)

- Total number of families served for one full year of our Produce Distribution = 384 (Priority#2 Sustainability & Resources)

New Games & DVD Releases
We decided to put video games back in our collection. Patrons are very excited to have that option. We have also created a new DVD release bin for patrons to browse at the circulation desk.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings
- The VOA Health and Safety Fair outreach was another success with many parents talked to about the Empire Pass and how it works, and letting people know about our summer reading program, and encouraging them to participate in their home library, if not Lyell. Between the school visit and this outreach, we are super excited to be recognizing some of the families who come in regularly. Names still escape us, but more faces are becoming familiar.

- Shamika and Sue attended the Cameron Street Community Summer Health Resource Fair. They talked with lots of people and spread the news of Summer Reading. It was a great day. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations. Expand our visible presence in our communities)
• Jennifer was recognized for excellence in customer service by 3 patrons during the month of June. Comments included: “She went above and beyond to help me and others. Best Service EVER” 6/28/19; “She made me want to come to the library every day and help me with my card [written by a teenager! :)] 6/10; one of our longtime patrons ever since I began working here whom I have helped continuously (along with other staff & volunteers) for his flyers as a pastor: “Her diligent in service, she help me.” 6/6 Pastor Egbujor Marcellinus

• Shamika was acknowledged by the Healthy Baby Network and received the Community champion Award for the work she does through libraries. Honorees received a ceremony, flowers, and a glass award plaque.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Children’s Programs

• Our yellow room is a hot spot for our youngest patrons. The yellow room has toys such as play food, transportation vehicles, animals, houses, barns, blocks, puzzles and many other items that encourage imaginative play. There were a couple of sessions where they played with whichever toys they wanted. There were a couple of times where, by choice, they only played with train sets and made an elaborate network of transportation. Several of the children have started watching Thomas the Tank and have asked for coloring pages of Thomas and his friends. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations.)

• Giant floor puzzles were a big hit in June. It just took one person to inspire our whole group of children to get excited about doing puzzles. There were pirates, dinosaurs, world maps and many other giant puzzles. Most of them were short a few pieces that but that did not seem to bother our hard-working puzzlers at all. Using the funding from the Rochester City School District summer literacy we purchased a few large floor puzzles.

• In June, there were two story times that were held with the pre-kindergarten students from Rochester City School 7. The pre-kindergarteners walked down from School 7 which is named for Virgil I. Grissom which is appropriate as the theme for summer reading is “A Universe of Stories.” Virgil I. Grissom was one of the original seven Mercury astronauts who became the second United States astronaut to travel in space and was the first man to return to space. We had a great time reading lots of space related stories to get students excited about the upcoming summer reading program. They learned all about planets, days, years, rotation and revolution. Using some fun rope and ball activities they learned about how gravity works.
• There was book bingo that went into numerous intense rounds of number calling. Our participants were getting very intense about winning. The children started demanding that we continue calling numbers before clearing our boards. They took the game very seriously.

Teen Programs
The Genshiken Club is named after a manga series by Shimoku Kio about a college club for otaku (extremely obsessed fans of various media). The title is a shortening of the club’s official name, Gendai Shikaku Bunka Kenkyūkai or The Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture. They played Stick Figure Fighters game several times and snacked on various Japanese snacks and had K Pop playing in the background. The club announced a manga reading contest. The group talked about conventions and watched videos showing events and cosplays. The Genshiken Club met weekly in June. This month they watched Kiki’s Delivery Service and discussed a manga reading challenge. The teens played charades using a phone app with different categories. The categories chosen were anime and manga, Pokémon, and k pop (Korean Pop) categories.

Outreach
• Evanna DiSalvo with Xandi DiMatteo visited OACES’s (Office of Adult and Career Education Services) ESL (English Language Speakers of Other Languages) classes and talked about programs offered at each branch and fielded questions about library cards and computer assistance. They emphasized that library services supplement what OACES does for them, not replaces. The information was well received, one student was very interested in borrowing a sewing machine.
• During one of Evanna DiSalvo’s visits to the Wachuku Foundation she brought a bagful of random items from around the house. The women would pull something out of the bag then see if they knew what the item was and if not, they talked about it. The activity was a big hit and everybody participated.
• DiSalvo is collaborating with Phillis Wheatley Site Supervisor Lori Frankunas to extend the citizenship program to Phillis Wheatley Library and will begin outreach efforts to that effect in July.
• DiSalvo attended World Refugee Day at the Rochester City School District’s Rochester International Academy (RIA). She dropped off summer reading and ENL (English as a New Language) flyers to the Lake Avenue Baptist Church for their World Refugee Day celebration.

Anecdotes/Other
This summer Maplewood will again be a site for Foodlink’s Summer Meals program. We started the day after school finished for elementary students. It’s an important program and is needed in our neighborhood.
Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Children’s Programs

- **PlayROCs:** This year’s play event was the biggest yet for Monroe Ave! We had 52 participants throughout the day, and 11 adults signed the petition for putting kids first in the city’s comprehensive plan. Since we receive funding from HealthiKids’ sponsors, we were able to replenish our play kit, purchase healthy snacks, and a shade tent to provide some relief from the heat. For more photos from the day, please see our album on the library’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/MonroeBranchLibrary/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10156497260977076

- **Stardust Play Dough:** We had another hands-on/hands-in program in July. Participants made their own play dough from scratch and then added “stardust” for color and glimmer. We used it as another literacy opportunity when we discussed texture, measurements, and experimentation in relation to their past experience with the ingredients (cooking/home dough making).

- **Celestial Navigators Story Time:** Participants learned about the night sky as a navigation tool for Underground Railroad conductors and freedom seekers. Told in some verse and some prose, “Follow the Drinking Gourd” tells the story of slaves as they made the precarious journey to the northern states, using code words and song, hiding in trees and behind secret doors. After the story time, a parent asked the question of her children, “Are we really living free?” For the story time portion, we left it that there was “more to the story” of freedom, though I thought it was appropriate and I was glad that the parent took direction of the topic with her children as it pertains to them and to the social climate, rather than leave it to the simplistic ending of the book.

Teen Services

- **Young Adult Summer Reading Program:** 11 young adults signed up for the program. The theme is based around a street fair with a different activity each week. The activity assigns them their genre to read that week. There are six different genres each week; some of them are the typical genres like Fantasy or Historical Fiction, and some are things like A Book with an Animal on the Cover, or A Book with a Verb in the Title. Participants also fill out a ticket for each book read, and there will be a drawing for prizes next month.

- **Tattoo Design Workshop:** This was held every Saturday in July, from noon until 1:30 pm. We had 3-4 students in each class, and they enjoyed getting personal attention from a professional tattoo artist. We also
had a chance to use our Picture File Folders, because the students needed visual references for their drawings.

Whiteboard:

Whiteboard: New question for Pride Month.

**Adult Programs**

Escape Room: This was our big event for the summer. The theme was “escape from the moon”. We planned this in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, July 20, 1969. Ian Downey, a Clerk at Monroe, was the lead organizer of this project. While this was a lot of work, it was a really fun way to bring the staff together. On Saturday, July 20, we transformed the vestibule of the children’s room into a lunar module. We had three sessions that evening; each session was one hour. People were escorted down to the children’s room. From there they had to figure out the clues that would allow them to escape from the moon. We had a total of 22 people that participated in this event. (This was one of the hottest nights so far this summer, so I was very happy that people ventured out.) If people successfully escaped from the moon, they received a Certificate stating this accomplishment and a pass to the RMSC. (The passes were donated by Larry Coley, Jeanie’s father.) This was followed by refreshments in the teen space; cookies, ice cream cups, lemonade and ice-cold water. Here people could decompress and talk about their adventure. The Escape Room was a really fun event. Now that we have done one, we may be doing this again. We have been getting requests from patrons that couldn’t make this one.

**Outreach & Community Involvement**

- **St. Paul’s Child Care Center:** Story time visits for the school year wrapped up on June 6, and June 20, and books were collected on June 27. We shared preschool pop-up program information with the preschool classroom teachers; the plan is for them to make a field trip to the library over the summer.
- **On June 26,** we went to the Monroe Village Farmer’s Market from 4:30-6:30. We gave out free books and also gave out information about our upcoming programs. We spoke with 21 people about the library and its events. This is always an enjoyable time. We saw a number of our regular patrons and met other people that weren’t aware of what the library had to offer. (**Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations. Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships**)
• SEAC: Tuesday, July 23, met with Selena Ragland, Community Outreach Coordinator at the South East Area Coalition, to brainstorm new programs to bring kids in and reach kids and families outside of the library. Some of the ideas include themed movie nights with crafts and/or activities to do while the movies play, a volunteer reception night, laundromat story time, fairy tale cooking programs, bookmaking with Flower City Arts, theatre workshops, and creating new parent/child surveys to find out when, where, and what families are looking for in library programming. Another plan that we have is to include a snapshot of library programs in the SEAC newsletter each month. Selena will be using the following photo to advertise our August programs in the next SEAC newsletter.

• Margaret Paige helped out at Story time at the Maplewood Rose Festival. The organizers and participants in the event expressed their appreciation for time spent in a restful program in the shade.

Sully Branch, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

• Jennifer Nesbitt hired Mini Ark Farm to come to the library with their petting zoo. It was a rainy day outside, but that didn’t stop us from loading up the Story Time Room with baby pigs, goats, rabbits, a tortoise, hedgehogs, snakes, a Giant German rabbit named Conrad, and even a fast-moving armadillo! This event was very popular and well attended by kids, teens, adults and of course staff! Learning about the animals and having the opportunity to pet and snuggle them made everyone happy.

• Nesbitt ordered Stomp Rockets this summer for kids to use outside on school/library/Rec grounds. Literacy Aides LiAsia Campbell and Susel Linares accompanied her outside one nice afternoon to let a group of kids launch rockets in the field. This was so much fun for everyone. The Stomp Rockets are air powered and can launch up to 200 feet in the air. This was a great activity to support STEM learning and was also a good way for kids to be physically active. It was also a nice tie-in to the space themed summer reading program.

• Another big hit this month was our brand-new Giant Connect Four game. Nesbitt ordered this with some of the proceeds from our PlayROCS event. We used it for PlayROCS and it was so popular that we brought it inside the library for kids and teens to use. The Rec Center even borrowed it for the Connect Four tournament they were hosting! One of our littlest patrons liked dropping the giant game pieces into the board over and over again.

• With our focus on STEM we’ve been displaying our 3D printer to the patrons and getting a massive response. This month we held a contest to earn the opportunity to learn how to use our Flashforge Finder and the attached software. Winners would also be able to print a library appropriate item on the printer to take
home with them. **Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations.**

- Our book club met in June to discuss “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas. One of our participants told Maria Heeks-Heinlein that this was the first book club she has ever gone to, and she was excited to now have a book club to belong to. She said that she loved the book, and she is looking forward to the next meeting. Heeks-Heinlein had several mini discussions about this book throughout the entire month of June, which included people who could not make the meeting but still wanted to discuss the book on another day. This story was one that many people from diverse backgrounds and ages could relate to.
- In July, we discussed “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah. While this historical fiction was set in the WWII France, some people in the group felt a connection to the two sisters in the story. Literature can connect people from across generations and cultures, and we are finding many connections in our club at Sully.

**Anecdotes/Other**

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein meet with Michele Eckert from Rochester Rehabilitation to set up a weekly program at Sully. A representative from the Resource and Public Benefit program will visit Sully once a week starting in September to work with patrons in crisis. ([Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Increase use and support of our libraries among our diverse populations])
- Donna Cramer, who was a clerk at the Sully Branch for the last 15 years, passed away unexpectedly after a short illness. Sully staff received a great deal of support from administration while we were trying to process Donna’s passing. Joan Lee and Pat Connor made sure we had extra coverage, Ana Suro set up a grief counselor to talk to staff, Patty Uttaro ensured Sully had the tools we needed to get through the difficult times, and ensured the central library was lit in purple lights to honor Donna. Dr. Reeves, Joan Lee, Tonia Burton, and Ana Suro also visited Sully to talk to staff. Cynthia Dana set up a book drive for people to donate to the Sully Library Birthday Book Club (we will place book pates in the books designating them as donations in Donna’s name). We are so grateful for all the support and compassion that was shown to us while we and our patrons were grieving. A memorial celebration was held at Sully on August 18 and attended by about 50 people – patrons, staff, and family.
- A volunteer from the Literacy Volunteers of Rochester (LVR) spent time with one of our patrons to assist her with online job applications. The patron mentioned that she applied for one position with a local human service agency, but they did not contact her about the application. The volunteer then helped the patron sort through the large number of emails she had. A few pages back, he found a message from the human service agency asking the patron to go in for a job interview. They set a date for the interview, which happened to be the very next day. If the LVR volunteer did not help her sort through her email at that time, she would have missed her interview. The next day, the patron came into the library to say that she went to the interview and that she got the job.
- We have had this regular patron visit the library for the past 5-6 years. He is 16 now. Every summer he goes away for a vacation. A few years back Maria Heeks-Heinlein asked him to send a post card when he was on vacation. He did, and now every summer we get a post card from him. This patron called us from Florida in July. He wanted to see if we received his last post card. "Not yet", Heeks-Heinlein said, "It will probably get here after you come home". He laughed, and then told her the post card said, "A bad weather day in Florida
is better than a good weather day someplace else". He laughed again. He likes to send us post cards like that. He then asked Heeks-Heinlein to wish him luck on his flight home, because "you never know what will happen on an airplane, Ms. Maria ". She told him that she understood being scared, and that she gets a little nervous when she flies too, but everything will be fine during his return flight. "Yeah. It will be all right" he said. "We're going to an island today, then we're going to snorkel. I'll see you soon, Ms. Maria." "See you soon, [name], I look forward to hearing about your vacation when you get back." "Yeah, and I hope that post card gets there soon". Laugh. Click. The post card arrived at the library about a week after the patron returned home. It's nice to know that the library is such an important part of this young man's life, important enough for him to call us all the way from Florida while on vacation.

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein went out on the Southeast Neighborhood Service Center’s Uplift event. They went knocking on doors in the Rocket and Pershing Street area to let people know about services people have access to in the city and to find out how things are going in the neighborhood. One resident was talking to a member of the outreach team across the street from where Heeks-Heinlein was, when he saw her, he shouted out “Hey that's my librarian!! It's nice to see you here!! I just remembered that I have to come into the library to see you about something”. The resident did come to the library the next day.

- The Mayor, Monroe County Executive, Dr. Reeves, and the Commissioner of the City’s Recreation Department had a summer reading kick off press event at the Sully branch. Several members of the media attended to hear the important message communicated by the speakers. Joan Lee and Marie Turner helped to prepare the area where the event took place. The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library had Shawn Dunwoody come in to touch up the story walk art work. School 33 brought down a few classes of children to participate in the event. The combined effort of so many people made this a very successful event.

- Sully had our internal work day on June 21. We were able to rearrange the adult area of the library to create a comfortable sitting area. Several adults have expressed their approval of the new arrangement. We also had our floors stripped and waxed, they now have a beautiful shine that makes the library more inviting when you first walk in. In addition to the cleaning and rearranging, we were able to process several items for circulation. We would like to thank administration and the RPL board for giving us this time to work on some projects that would be very difficult to do while we were open. (Priority #3 Stewardship and Curation: Our library facilities are more welcoming and efficient)

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

**Children’s Programs**

- Painting rocks is always a highlight for the children. This time we made them for our garden. Each child tried to come up with some kind of word or picture to put on the rock.
• We made paper bag monsters. I thought it would be a great idea to get the children thinking about aliens and space for summer reading. They made mommy monsters and baby monsters since I had too different bag sizes. (*Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations*)

**Adult Programs**

• Nate Rawls Community Band performed on June 12. Children, teens, and adults of all ages attended this event. The community band performed a selection of music from famous musicians. Some children joined the band on stage and got to play along with some percussion instruments.

• Phillis Wheatley Library attended the Women’s bike festival. The mobile book bike was used to promote the library and summer reading program that will begin in July. We had lots of books to give away and had the kids roll the dice to win prizes. (*Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships*)

**Anecdotes**

• We had some international visitors (from Poland and the Netherlands) that were here to perform at the Jazz festival. They stopped in the library looking for suggestions of things to do and places to eat in Rochester on their day off. They left with lots of ideas and said they really loved the sidewalks and story walk.

• A patron has been into Wheatley on a few occasions obtaining the information needed to help him get his driver’s license. A friend initially provided him with a website and steps, which the library assisted him with following. When no forms were received, he returned to Wheatley for more assistance. After a month passing and he still failed to receive his forms, we helped him contact Florida DMV. After being transferred to several different offices we were eventually able to obtain the correct information that we needed. He was provided with a list of steps that need to be taken within New York and sent to Florida in order to get his licensed cleared. He was very appreciative of all the assistance that he was provided here at Wheatley.

• Patrons who regularly frequent the Phillis Wheatley Library Movie Night program expressed joy over being able to watch Hidden Figures and shared that they feel like more people need to see this movie due to how empowering it is for young women and minorities.

• In March, the Phillis Wheatley Book Club read “The Peach Cobbler Murder”. They were each given a peach cobbler mug pie to go along with the book theme. The pie was made in a Phillis Wheatley coffee cup. While
engaged in June’s book club, one of the regular attendees, Laura Travis, asked the other members if they only drink tea out of their Phillis Wheatley Coffee Mug. She expressed that she loved her mug, and the other members agreed.

- A patron shared that they haven’t been to the Phillis Wheatley Library since their childhood and stated that they love the library and look forward in engaging in the adult events.

**Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting**

**Programs**

- On July 8, we kicked off our Summer Reading Program with an Astronaut Training Program to tie in with the Universe of Stories theme. This program was an obstacle course that we set up in the Community Room. Each child had a check list of tasks to perform including: “Cross the lava pit on the tightrope while carrying a radioactive ball wearing protective gear;” “get through the laser maze (the laser beams were crepe paper streamers) without touching the laser beam and getting burned;” and, “using only a lightsaber (altered pool noodle), keep a balloon aloft” (most popular activity). For some reason, neither Kathy Wolf nor Literacy Aide Amanda Smith thought to take any pictures of that program!

- RhymeTime continues to be the most popular family program that is regularly scheduled at the Winton Library. Because repetition is so very important for very young children, the program follows the same format each week. We open with two hello songs, and then we move into some bounces. The middle portion of the program varies; sometimes we do nursery rhymes, or rhymes/songs with scarves, or even rhymes that end with a fun tickle. Wolf often reads a short, simple book during this time. Then we sing some songs with shakers. Once the shakers come out, no one has any attention for anything more. Winton has a variety of toys for very young children, and we spend the last twenty to thirty minutes playing with toys and socializing with each other. The parents seem to really enjoy talking to one another and the babies are learning how to be with other kids their own age. What really strikes Wolf about this program is the adult participation. While most other libraries report that parents chitchat with each other rather than engaging with their children at the story time, this does not seem to be the case at the Winton Branch. The moms (and occasional dads) sing the songs, bounce their children, and even do the finger plays as a group.

**Teen Programs**

- Seven 12-year-olds gathered Thursday, July 18, to learn how to decorate cookies using frosting in piping bags from Katherine Sorce. Materials were supplied by the library. An all-girl group, though not intended, had cookies, frosting, piping bags, couplers and tips to learn how to create three different decorative effects.

- Mr. Seeling is a 79-year-old retired school teacher living south of Bristol, who still works as a substitute teacher. On Saturday, June 15, he brought seventy pounds of Seventeenth Century armor, and donned it for the benefit of patrons who could, and did, ask
many questions. He spoke with nineteen people that day, many of whom were amazed by the weight, construction of the suit, its parts, use and the decline of armor due to new technologies. The program had originally been scheduled for March 23, but Mr. Seeling cancelled it because of snow. *(Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations)*

- Thursday, June 27, about 15 people -- 12 adults and 3 teens, gathered in the community room to create a Shibori tie-dyed item. Shibori is a 1,000-year-old art that uses folding, twine, rubber bands, smooth stones, and wood as resist methods and indigo dye to create sometimes unpredictable patterns on cotton, linen, and hemp. One of the women brought a tee-shirt she intended to wear in Japan when she visits in 10 days. Others brought tee-shirts to learn a new craft and test the process. Those who did not have anything to bring were provided with a 21” x 21” cotton bandana. During this two-hour program, everyone was cordial about sharing buckets of dye and, more than anything, the rinse buckets. We had time to create the resist pattern, dye, rinse, and bag their article(s). One of the women remarked that while most didn’t know other participants that everyone bonded and helped each other. Emily McFarlane stopped in and stayed to volunteer her assistance during the program. Her help was exceptionally cordial, effective, and efficient for running the program seamlessly. Emily is a Syracuse University student working her way through a master’s in library science and had just finished a cooperative project to benefit the library.

*Adult Programs*

This month’s highlight was our Family Music Party on June 13. Despite the horrible weather which included torrential downpours and thunder, well over 100 people gathered for this event, which took place inside the library. This was the second year we have had this event and already it is becoming a staple in the community. Finnerty talked to one of our “regulars” and he told her how important the library is to the community and he can’t imagine this neighborhood (where he has lived for 35 years) without the Winton Library. It was great to
see so many families attend the event with their children. They enjoyed the face painter and magician and loved the music provided by the Wilmot Brass Quintet (Nazareth faculty). Netsins brought their ice cream truck, so patrons were able to buy ice cream to munch on while they listened. We look forward to hosting this event next year. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experience for our diverse populations.)

Anecdotes/Other
- Pat Finnerty helped a man who is translating an old German diary from the turn of the century. She has helped him several times secure different German reference materials.
- The Winton Branch got a call from a patron who needed help with setting up an email address so he could apply for jobs. He said that he didn’t have any computer experience and wanted someone who could sit down with him. We set up an appointment for him to come in when we had plenty of staff here to cover. Mike came in at 2:00 pm on a Monday. Mike has severe vision issues and is developmentally disabled. He worked for 23 years at the University of Rochester, in the Medical Records Department. His job was eliminated when the U of R went to digital records. He had been retired for four years and had decided that he wanted something to do with his time. He is interested in either a part time job or a volunteer opportunity. Wolf sat down with him, and they worked to complete the online form to register for an email account through Gmail. He successfully got his email account and was asking about help with setting up a resume. We agreed that he would put what he wanted on his resume in writing, and then make another appointment. We talked about possibly getting some help from LifeSpan and Rochester Works. We also made sure that he was aware of the Computer Lab at the Central Library. All in all, this was a positive experience for all involved.

Community Outreach/Meetings
The Browncroft Neighborhood Association has had their election, and now has a new board. This group meets at the Winton Library after we close on the second Tuesday of every other month. Kathy Wolf expected that the new president might find another place for this meeting to be held; however, he called to schedule the year of meetings at the library. It was a very exciting meeting with quite a lot of discussion over Mayor Warren’s Rochester 2034 Comprehensive Plan. People had some very strong feelings about some of the ramifications it may bring. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships)

Selected Meetings & Outputs, June 15 – August 16
Director Patricia Uttaro, reporting

Standing Meetings
City Senior Management Team (weekly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)
Brie Harrison, Ana Suro, Tolley Reeves, Tonia Burton, Christine Ridarsky – 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
Roc the Future State of Our Children Planning Meeting
Jonathan Binstock, Patti Giordano, Ned Davis at Memorial Art Gallery
Mary Ann Mavrinac, University of Rochester
Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association Summer Kickoff
Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester Board Meeting
Sandra Frankel & Vivian Palladoro
City Councilmember LaShay Harris
Early Grade Literacy Team meeting
Jennifer Hanrahan, Monroe County International Airport Manager
Bleu Cease, (RoCo) Current Scene biennial exhibit planning
Genesee Country Village Marketing Committee meeting
Natalie McDonough phone call (new Division of Library Development Regional Consultant)
Terry Kirchner, Director Westchester Library System, phone call
Tour of new Henrietta Library
PULISDO Annual Conference
Call with Universal Services Program Staff regarding e-rate audit
Jackie Campbell, Roc the Future
RPD Chief Singletary & Staff regarding security at Central and in the Branches
Jenn Biedeman, PlayWalk
Mayor Warren, Deputy Mayor Smith – City Project Updates
City Budget Director Chris Wagner regarding Rundel Terrace project funding
MCLS Trustees meeting, Penfield Library
2020 Census Complete Count Committee Meeting
Racial Equity & Justice Initiative Team Meeting
Sully Storywalk Ribbon Cutting
Carol Coburn, Ogden Historian

Email Activity
June & July 2019

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