TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: October 30, 2019  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – October 2019

*Action Items*

**Election of Nominating Committee (Baynes)**  
In accordance with the RPL Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall be elected at the October meeting. It shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the President and two of whom shall be elected by the Board. The Nominating Committee shall meet as needed and shall make recommendations to the Board for officers and new Board members. The Nominating Committee shall develop a slate of candidates for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, which shall be presented to the Board at the November meeting for the vote of officers at the January meeting.

Trustees Baynes (President), and Benjamin (Vice-President) are currently serving in their first terms and in accordance with the Bylaws, are eligible to serve a second year in the same offices. Trustees Salluzzo (Secretary) and Lovenheim (Treasurer) have served their 2-year consecutive terms and need to be replaced. Terms for trustees Baynes, Gardner, and Hamilton are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2019; recommendations regarding possible reappointment to the Board should also be developed by the Nominating Committee for presentation and vote by the full Board.

**Board Action Requested:** Appointment of Nominating Committee as described.

**2020 RPL Board Meeting Schedule (Uttaro)**  
The proposed RPL Board of Trustee meeting dates for 2020 are:
- January 29
- February 19 – joint budget meeting with MCLS
- March 25
- April 29
- May 27
- June 24
- August 26
- September 30
- October 28
- November 18 - one week early due to Thanksgiving holiday

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of 2020 RPL Board of Trustee meetings.
2020 Holiday Schedule (Suro)
The following proposed schedule of 2020 holidays for RPL staff closely follows the approved schedule for City employees. These are holidays negotiated with AFSCME and CSEA bargaining units.

- New Year’s Day - Wednesday, January 1, 2020
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, January 20, 2020
- Spring Floater to be taken between February 1 and April 30
- Memorial Day - Monday, May 25, 2020
- Independence Day - Friday, July 3, 2020
- Labor Day - Monday, September 7, 2020
- Columbus Day - Monday, October 12, 2020
- Staff Day - Friday, October 23, 2020
  (Library buildings will be closed to the public – staff reports for Annual Staff Day)
- Veterans’ Day (Observed) - Wednesday, November 11, 2020
- Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 26, 2020
- Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24, 2020
- Christmas Day - Friday, December 25, 2020
- Director’s Discretionary Day to be taken during calendar year 2020

Board Action Requested: Approval of the 2020 Holiday Schedule for RPL employees.

Lyell Food for Fines Project (Reeves)

As we draw closer to the season of giving, the Lyell Branch would like to collect food for fines during November and December. The food exchanged for fine forgiveness will go to the Lyell Food Cart, a small food pantry maintained in the library solely through donations. Many food pantries have food and income restrictions to receive item, but the library cart is open to all. Lyell also stocks the cart with small school supplies and will accept those in this program as well. The fine forgiveness will be $1 per non-perishable item/school supply item donated up to $10 max. Children, teens, and adults can participate. Only RPL fines will be eligible.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the Food For Fines project at the Lyell Branch for November & December 2020.

Professional Services Agreement with Rochester Regional Library Council (Uttaro)

Rochester Regional Library Council hosted a regional program for children’s and school librarians called “We Need Diverse Libraries: Diversifying Your Bookshelves for Young Readers and Teens.” This workshop was held September 24, and was part of the Family Literacy Grant managed by MCLS Children’s Consultant Tonia Burton. The cost for the workshop was $2500.

We Need Diverse Books (WNDB) started as a viral hashtag on Twitter in 2014 and since then has grown into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with ten initiatives that seek one common goal -- to create a world in which all children can
see themselves on the pages of a book. Since WNDB’s inception, librarians have proved vital in furthering WNDB’s mission and librarians continue to play an integral role in introducing diverse stories in the communities they serve. This workshop included:

- Why it is important for libraries to include diverse books, the benefits of inclusive literature, and what statistics and studies show about diverse collections.
- Diverse book recommendations, from board books up to young adult books, that will represent a wide variety of diverse voices.
- A panel with local authors and illustrators who spoke about their work and discussed diversity in children’s literature as a whole.

Presenters included Nicole A. Johnson, WNDB Executive Director; Caroline Tung Richmond, WNDB Program Director; and Author Panelists Linda Sue Park (middle grade & picture book fiction), Leslie Youngblood (middle grade fiction), Andrea Page (middle grade nonfiction), and Kaelyn Rich (YA nonfiction).

Funds for this program were sourced from the New York State Family Literacy Grants program, managed by Tonia Burton.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of $2500 paid to Rochester Regional Library Council for the “We Need Diverse Libraries” workshop.

**Amendatory Agreement, Tutoring Services (Harrison)**

The Monroe County Library System has awarded a sub-grant through its Adult Literacy grant program for the provision of Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE) tutoring services. As described in the 2018-19 tutoring summary, library staff have determined that many TASC students attending tutoring at library locations often need assistance below the level of TASC instruction provided. By scheduling TABE tutoring sessions prior to the TASC coursework, students can make better progress toward their goal of achieving high school equivalency certification.

Current instructor Melissa Parrish will increase services by 69 hours at the current hourly rate structure ($29), increasing compensation by $2,001 to a total not-to-exceed of $6,441. Funding for the additional hours was transferred from MCLS to the RPL for administration purposes.

These services will be supplemented by digital literacy lessons taught by Maplewood library staff at the branch as well as the Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services computer lab.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of an amendatory agreement with Melissa Parrish for a revised not-to-exceed amount of $6,641, with all remaining terms to be the same.

**Investment Policy Statement (Harrison)**

The Investment Policy Statement outlines the goals and investment objectives of the RPL, last established in 2011. Proposed edits, additions and deletions were reviewed by the Board at its August 2019 meeting, with a clean copy distributed for the October meeting. Since the Policy Statement is intended to provide guidance to the Finance/Investment Committee and the investment advisor, amendments seek to further clarify the following:

- Provides level of risk tolerance for RPL assets;
- Specifies target asset allocations;
- Establishes criteria for evaluating performance of investment advisor (benchmark); and
- Defines responsibilities of the Committee, investment advisor and Board.

The Policy Statement will be reviewed by the Committee periodically, with proposed amendments as necessary to ensure they continue to reflect the financial situation of the RPL and of capital markets.

**Board Action Requested**: Approval of the Amended Investment Policy Statement.

**City Capital Improvement Request (Harrison)**

Below is a listing of City Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY21 to FY25 funding cycle. Outside of the standard requests for equipment, computer replacement, and Central Library facility maintenance, we are confirming cost estimates for specific capital projects in conjunction with the City’s Division of Architectural Services for Central and branch library building-related needs. An allocation for the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan actions is also under development. We will present both of these at the meeting for Board review and acceptance. Annual library facility, furnishing and IT equipment requests are as follows:

1. **Branch Library Computer Replacements**: The Library’s five-year cycle for server, large equipment, network/telephony and computer replacements is as follows:

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
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2. **Branch Facilities Annual Allocation**: This is the fifth year we are requesting a capital allocation for general maintenance of our ten branch facilities; our requested allocation for FY21 is $52,000 and we incorporate an inflationary increase of $2,000 for proceeding years.

3. **Branch Furniture and Equipment**: We request an annual allocation of $20,000 to replace chairs, tables, shelving and equipment as needed in each branch, with an increase to $22,000 annually in FY22 through FY25.

4. **Central Facilities Annual Allocation**: Each year the City provides an allocation for the general upkeep of the Central Library. Our requested allocation for FY21 and FY22 is $90,000 and we incorporate an inflationary increase of $2,000 for the proceeding years.

**Board Action Requested**: Approval of the proposed CIP Request

**Resolution in Support of Fair Access to Digital Content (Uttaro)**

Given the recent developments in access to digital content primarily driven by Macmillan Publishing, the RPL Board acknowledges the threat this poses to free and open access to information and therefore supports this resolution:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FAIR ACCESS TO DIGITAL CONTENT

WHEREAS Rochester’s public libraries have a duty to ensure access to information for all, and

WHEREAS publishers are increasingly imposing restrictions on library purchases of new and popular materials in digital formats, and
WHEREAS libraries are typically required to pay exponentially higher prices for copies of books in digital formats than consumers, and

WHEREAS these barriers are an impediment to the freedom to read, particularly for those who are most dependent on libraries, as well as a challenge to our long-held commitment to equity of access.

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Rochester Public Library:

1. Supports all digital content being made equally available to libraries without embargo and at fair prices.
2. Supports raising public awareness of these issues.
3. Supports taking active steps to reduce publisher practices that are harmful to libraries and readers.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the Resolution in Support of Fair Access to Digital Content.

**Fine Art Gift Policy Revision (Uttaro)**
At the August 2019 RPL Board meeting, trustees considered a revision to the Fine Art Gift Policy. Trustee Wolf recommended additional language regarding gifts made with restrictions. The language has been modified under “Acceptance of gifts of art by the Library is subject to the following conditions:” second bullet point - *Gifts must be made without restrictions, except those covered by the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990. In the case of an item covered under the Act, restrictions or conditions must be submitted in writing and retained with the agreement form.* (See attached policy.)

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the amended Fine Art Gift Policy revision.

**Close Date for Rochester Criterium, June 6 (Uttaro)**
The Rochester Criterium bike race is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2020. We are asking for permission to close the Central Library for that day due to road closures and restrictions throughout the day. Some library staff will be on duty to facilitate use of the Rundel Building by Criterium organizers and participants for registration.

**Board Action Requested:** Closure of the Central Library on Saturday June 6, 2020.

**Discussion Items**

**Elimination of Fax and Hold Fees** – We wish to begin discussion with the Board regarding elimination of fees for faxing and for holds. Currently, we do not have exact numbers for faxing revenue, however, analysis suggests it is not significant and ranges from a couple of dollars per month to occasionally as much as $300. Use of faxing has changed over the years and now consists primarily of documents that must be faxed for social services or banking reasons. We believe that eliminating the fee for faxing will lessen the stress associated with filling out and submitting complicated forms that is currently experienced by our customers.

In FY2018-19, RPL filled 52,681 holds – 40,115 in branches and 12,566 at Central. If the $.25 holds fee was collected for each of these holds, RPL realized $13,171 in revenue. We propose eliminating the holds fee to remove another barrier to full utilization of the library system for our customers.
We would like to hear your thoughts, answer questions, and provide additional research before we bring this to the full board for a vote in November.

**RPL Strategic Plan Report and Revision** – The Strategic Plan report was provided to trustees at the September meeting. We wish to open discussion about the content of the report and to discuss the path forward to revision of the RPL strategic plan in 2020.

**Report Items**
*Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting*

**Recommended Reading/Viewing**

**Upcoming Events**
- FFRPL Volunteer Luncheon – Wednesday, October 30, Noon. Kusler-Cox Auditorium
- Cookie Monster, Live! At Central Library – Saturday, November 2, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Reception, Everyday People: The Dinkle Family and Rochester’s African American Past - Saturday, November 9, 1-3 pm, Local History Exhibits Hall, 2nd floor, Rundel Memorial Building.
- FFRPL Publisher’s Circle Dinner – Wednesday, November 13, 5:30-9:00 pm, Hacker Hall
- Fall MCLS Trustee Symposium – Saturday, November 23, 9:00-Noon. Henrietta Public Library
Social Media

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<th>MCLS Twitter</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Facebook Calendar</th>
<th>Instagram</th>
<th>YouTube</th>
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<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central
- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 1,107
- Click through - 95

RPL
- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 1,771
- Click through – 111

New subscribers – 5

Central Library Updates
Associate Director Adam Traub reporting

Patron Denise Lippa sent the following note in the MCLS suggestions and comments web form:

“The immense gratitude I feel for the library, most specifically Central, is inexpressible. The eye-opening, heart-opening, peace-spreading work is sadly under-cultivated by our Rochester area community. I take it upon myself regularly to carry flyers to my Irondequoit library to spread the word about programs. It does not make any sense to me that there isn’t more collaboration amongst the Monroe County libraries to distribute the information, ensure people get the opportunity to know and attend the unique history, music, film, dance, art, etc. offered at Central.”
**Arts/Literature Division, Nanci Nugent reporting**

**Programs**

- **Lunch Hour Concerts:** Tuesday lunch hour concerts concluded with a high energy concert of jazz funk fusion from Vanishing Sun. Lead singer Zahyia jumped off the stage and danced with a few of her fans from Arc of Monroe in one of the most joyful moments of the summer concert series.

- **Sonja Livingston – Author Reading & Signing.** Sonja Livingston, Rochester native and award-winning essayist and memoirist, read from her recently published book, *The Virgin of Prince Street*, to a standing room only crowd of 110 in the Kusler-Cox Auditorium. A long line formed after her reading of people interested in purchasing her book and having her sign it. Prior to her reading, Sonja taught a much anticipated master writing class to a very eager group of students. This was Sonja’s fourth visit to Central Library. She has quite the following in Rochester and it is truly an honor to host her at the library whenever she releases a new book.

- **Tim Burkett – Author Reading & Signing:** Tim Burkett, licensed psychologist, guiding teacher at the Minnesota Zen Meditation Center, and author of *Zen in the Age of Anxiety*, was brought to Rochester by Dharma Refuge and Nazareth College. In addition to a talk and retreat at Nazareth, Burkett gave a reading and signed copies of his book. His talk addressed the issue of fear and how wrestling with it doesn’t have to be a negative experience. Tim was highly engaging and invited audience members to have a dialogue with him after his reading.

- **Rochester Writes continued in September with a new four-part offering – Learning to Write for TV & Film,** which explores how to create compelling characters, develop engaging stories and craft realistic dialogue by watching and learning from award-winning films and TV. Rochester Writes classes are becoming increasingly popular, with all classes filling up quickly and wait lists forming.

- **Sewing a Primitive Halloween Doll:** Librarian Nanci Nugent taught a fun class making primitive dolls for Halloween. Prims are dolls that are not perfect, sometimes having a worn look and exposed threads. Nugent has been making dolls for many years and enjoys bringing her expertise to interested patrons. Students learned how to sew a doll wearing a Regency dress and tall hat. Students sewed the arms and legs and were instructed how to make a dress for their doll with a lace collar. The Art Division’s sewing machines were used to sew the dress. Nugent helped those students who could not use machine. All had an enjoyable time. Students were amazed they sewed a doll dress using two simple fabric pieces. One student said, “I can now sew a doll dress and will make more.”

**Outreach Efforts**

Librarian Carol Moldt met with Karen Elam, Director of The Jewish Federation’s The Levine Center to End Hate. The Levine Center is bringing the authors of *The Gift of our Wounds* to Rochester on November 21 to share their
story of finding forgiveness after hate in an inspiring community conversation. The authors are a Sikh whose father was killed by a white supremacist at his Oak Creek, Wisconsin temple in 2012, and a former skinhead who spent years committing violent acts in the name of white power, who together have forged an unexpected friendship. Elam approached Moldt with the idea of Central Library hosting a book discussion group at the library with the authors, which will take place at noon on November 21, in the Kusler-Cox Auditorium. Additionally, Moldt and Elam are planning to create a book discussion/conversation series throughout 2020 on the subject of hate and forgiveness at Central Library and possibly some of the branches.

Business Innovation Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Meetings
Librarian Kate Meddaugh and Business Innovation Center Supervisor Jennifer Byrnes met with Ana Liss from Greater Rochester Enterprise (GRE) to discuss the value of the Carlson Center for their fall program advertising push. They then met with four staff members to discuss the “Because of Rochester” campaign GRE is embarking on. Business Innovation Center staff are helping GRE identify how technology developed in the Rochester area impacts the daily lives of people around the world.

Outreach
- Byrnes and Meddaugh attended The Entrepreneurs Network (TEN) Bootcamp Graduation. They are both instructors for the program. They also presented at the TEN Women’s Business Accelerator program to discuss the services and resources of the Business Innovation Center and Carlson Center.
- Meddaugh attended the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Road Tour in Albany. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office specifically requested that she attend to discuss the Patent Virtual Assistance Program. She learned about grant opportunities for small businesses, resources for inventors, and was recognized by Elizabeth Doughtery, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Eastern District representative. Of note: There is a Patent and Trademark Resource Center in Albany, but as the Carlson Center is considered a model Patent and Trademark Resource Center, Patent and Trademark Office staff wanted Meddaugh, a veritable rock star of the patent world, to be there.
- Byrnes presented on resources and services of the Business Innovation Center at the Pike Company’s mentoring program, a partnership with the Rochester School Modernization Program - Business Opportunities Program.

Consulting
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 20 in-person, 4 by email, 5 by phone.
- Patent Virtual Assistance Center appointments: 4
- Webpage views: 77

Lily Anthony solved more issues with Patent and Trademark Resource Center database access and completed 22 3D print jobs, of which 20 were for just one inventor. She also identified local design and plant patents for the Greater Rochester Enterprise collaboration.
Byrnes and Anthony fielded 21 in-depth research requests, averaging 45 minutes each.

Database Usage
- Frost & Sullivan – 9 reports downloaded, value: $27,700 / 24 reports read, value: $70,050.
- Statista: 151 searches / 42 downloads, value: $14,898
- ValueLine: Logins: 136 / Searches: 3,023 / Downloads: 999
• MarketScope Advisor: 0
• InnovationQ: 7 users with 54 independent patent searches

Exhibits
The Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bombings exhibit, on loan from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Japan, was on display for two weeks. We received a lot of positive feedback. Highlights of the exhibit included the 1,000 origami cranes hanging in the library, and cranes made by President Barack Obama and Sadako Sasaki.

Anecdotes
A patron was so moved by the Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibit she emailed Senators Schumer and Gillibrand:

“I am pleased that in Rochester, NY, we have an exhibit at the Central Library about Hiroshima and Nagasaki which provided an opportunity to speak to an Atomic Bomb Survivor. In the booklet accompanying the exhibit, a Hiroshima survivor remarks, ‘At present, there are some 30,000 nuclear warheads in existence in the world with seven countries possessing arsenals. The majority of which have five to a hundred times the destructive power of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.’”

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Program Analysis
Nazareth College’s Dr. Lisa Hiley and two research assistants partnered with the Rochester Public Library to explore utilization of literacy programming for young children in library settings during the summer months. Questions guiding the inquiry addressed factors possibly influencing attendance and engagement with library programs designed for young children during the summer months as follows: access; equality of and motivation for participation; valuing of literacies in home and community settings; cultural, linguistic and/or developmental modifications for participation and engagement; and, underlying perspectives of stakeholders on summer literacy experiences.

Several methods were employed to understand the perspectives of families/caregivers regularly using the library and those not regularly using the library, as well as library professionals. The following summarizes key data collection efforts across summer 2019:

**Initial Interviews**: Library Staff and High-Utilization Families (early summer)

**Photo Journaling (@ library branches)**: Library Staff and High-Utilization Families (mid-summer)

**Literacy Environmental Observation Form**: at participating branch libraries (mid-summer)

**Photo Journal/Final Interviews**: Library Staff and High-Utilization Families (later summer)

**Community Member Surveys**: Community members at public events completing a survey
**It should be noted that literacy kits/materials were distributed to participants throughout the study as well as small tokens of appreciation.**

The following summarizes the data collected:

- 63 community member surveys
- 7 CHELLO (Child Home Environmental Language and Literacy Observation) observations were completed (each at a unique branch) - results suggest that literacy environments were consistently scored as “excellent”
- 10 librarians completed the initial and final (photo) interviews which are currently transcribed and being coded for analysis; these librarians represented 7 branches
- 4 families completed the initial and final (photo) interviews which are currently transcribed and being coded for analysis; these families represented 4 branches
- 200+ photos were collected as part of the photo journaling project, illustrating the offerings, spaces, and experiences at the library; these are being coded for analysis

Further data analysis is underway to be completed in the College’s fall 2019 semester with results shared in the new year.

**Raising a Reader**

In September weekly visits to 8 out of 9 Raising A Reader sites were scheduled and confirmed by the sites and Raising A Reader staff. Lauren Seaver spoke with the director of Volunteers Of America and confirmed that we will provide RAR to their 18 classrooms. With this increase, Raising A Reader is set to serve approximately 573 families this year. This month, we had over 300 bags cleaned and ready to go, and 470 book bags have been assembled and processed for circulating to families’ homes (that is a total of 1880 books.) Approximately 160-320 books bags still need to be assembled and processed. Burton and Seaver also traveled to Maryland this month for the Raising A Reader Coordinator Training.

**Upcoming programs**

- As usual, the start of the schoolyear has brought many requests for class visits and to date we have booked 22 groups, which include 42 different classes, for visits from the last week of September through the middle of November. That is up from 14 groups in 2018.
- Central's Girl Scout Troop will resume meetings on October 2, with funding from Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. Like last year, Katie Powell has several visits planned from women in STEAM fields, including University of Rochester professors, an artist, and a software engineer. Our partner from Girl Scouts of Western New York is in the process of planning weekly badge activities covering topics like self-esteem, cookie sales, money management, science, and technology.

**Circulation/Information Department, Chad Cunningham reporting**

- New Borrowers 216
- Access cards 2
- Notarial Acts 148

**Programs**

Brian DiNitto taught 12 computer classes. 28 people attended. Two patrons completed the four-course program and received certificates of completion.
Local History & Genealogy Division, Christine Ridarsky reporting

We are pleased to announce that Dan Cody has accepted a position as part-time Library Assistant in the division. Cody has a master’s degree in American History from the State University of New York, College at Brockport, and has taught history as an adjunct lecturer at Finger Lakes and Geneseo community colleges. He also served as consulting collections manager for the Rochester Historical Society when it was co-located in the library, so he comes to us with a strong familiarity with the collections in the Local History & Genealogy Division. The staff looks forward to welcoming him to the team this fall!

Exhibitions
• Since opening at the end of July, the new Local History & Genealogy Division exhibition, Everyday People: The Dinkle Family and Rochester’s African American Past, has received some very positive attention. The exhibit, focusing on an African American family that has lived in the Rochester area since the 1870s, was featured as a “choice event” on City Newspaper’s website (https://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/rochester/exhibit-everyday-people/Content?oid=10741507) and also in a blog (https://livinginthepasts.blogspot.com/2019/08/everyday-people-exhibit-at-rundel.html) written by local researcher and library patron, Lisa Kleman, who helped encourage her friends Karen Dinkle Bunton and Jerry Bunton to share the Karen family’s collection with the library.

The Dinkle family collection offers an unprecedented look at what life has been like for African Americans living in Rochester over the past 150 years. Tracing the family’s history through five generations, the exhibit highlights the experiences of family members as they intersected with broad 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. One library patron reported via the exhibit’s guest book, “The Dinkle exhibit is heartwarming. Looks like our family😊.” Another visitor thanked us for the exhibit, noting that “Rochester has such a rich Black history!”

A reception for the exhibit is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 9, from 1-3 pm, in the Local History Exhibits Hall. More information about the reception and other planned programs relating to this exhibit will be forthcoming.

• 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, where it was viewed by 366 people in August and September. Our exhibit complements another exhibit at the site about suffragist and Medal of Honor recipient, Dr. Mary Walker. Rochester’s suffrage story and content from the Rochester Public Library’s special collections will reach an ever-wider audience in fall 2020 when this exhibit is displayed at the Mills Station Arts & Culture Center in Rancho Cordova, CA.

Community Outreach/Meetings
• We were very excited in August to launch the National History Day (NHD) for the Rochester City Schools program sponsored by the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) in partnership with the RCSD Social Studies Department and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Archives. Ridarsky, Finn and RIT Archivist Elizabeth Call taught a two-day hands-on workshop attended by nine RCSD teachers who are interested in having their students participate. Since then, three teachers have committed to pilot the project in five classrooms this fall, with the goal of entering several student projects to a local competition at the library in February, as well as in the regional competition at the Genesee Country Village & Museum in
March. Regional winners will move on to a state competition in Cooperstown. It has been at least 20 years since RCSD students have participated in the regional competition.

- Ridarsky represented the City and the library at a meeting called by the Office of the New York State Historian to discuss the state’s plans for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution beginning in 2026. The discussion, held at Ganondagan, centered on the need to ensure that the celebration and the historical narrative it relates are inclusive of the Native American, African American, and other diverse cultures’ experiences.

- Ridarsky represented the City and the library at the Black Pride Day of Excellence Dinner & Awards Presentation. Two members of the Stonewall: 50 Years Out exhibit’s community curation team were honored: Gatekeeper Adrian Elim and Miss Rickey Snowden. The portraits commissioned by the Friends & Foundation of the RPL (and created by Elim) for the exhibit were displayed at the Black Box Theatre on Joseph Avenue with credit to the library and FFRPL as part of Black Pride, as well.

- Finn worked with a fifth-grade teacher in the Pittsford school district to develop a lesson on the history of the Rochester Subway that incorporates primary sources from the library’s special collections.

- Ridarsky participated in a conference call with members of the National Council on Public History’s Committee for Government Historians, which she co-chairs. The topic was a proposal the committee plans to submit to host a structured conversation on “Working in Government: Creative Solutions to Political Constraints” at the 2020 National Council on Public History Annual Conference.

- A large contingent of members of the Sons of the American Revolution, many clad in 18th-century period clothing, descended upon the Local History & Genealogy Division in mid-September to rededicate a 100-year-old bronze plaque that had been lost for more than 40 years before being recently rediscovered. The ceremony took place exactly 100 years to the hour of the historic plaque’s original dedication at 4:30 pm on Constitution Day, September 17, 1919. The plaque originally was mounted on a five-ton boulder that stood at the north end of a small triangular green, called Convention Park, at the intersection of Monroe and Clinton Avenues in the southeast part of Rochester adjacent to what is now Geva Theater. More than 250 people gathered to see it dedicated on Constitution Day 1919, when the Sons of the American Revolution first presented it to the City. The date was chosen because it marked the 132nd anniversary of the completion and signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787, and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Rochester Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, in 1894. Thus, it provided an opportunity for the Sons of the American Revolution to demonstrate its patriotic attitude and to present a noteworthy gift to the City of Rochester in honor of the organization’s quarter century of service to the community. The plaque remained at its original location until 1971, when it was removed and went missing during construction of the Inner Loop. Charlie Wu rediscovered the plaque covering a sump hole in the basement of a Henrietta home in 2012 when the home was being prepared for demolition. Wu in turn gave the plaque to his friend Walter Winner, who has an interest in unusual historical artifacts. Using the clues available on the plaque and in local sources, they pieced together its history. It turns out, the Henrietta home in which it had been discovered had at one time been owned by a truck driver who had worked for one of the construction firms that built the Inner Loop.

Recognizing the plaque’s historical significance, Wu and Winner returned the plaque to the Sons of the American Revolution in March 2018. The Sons of the American Revolution, in turn, returned the plaque to the City of Rochester via the Rochester Public Library, where it will be permanently displayed in the Local History & Genealogy Division.

Collection Development and Maintenance

- Clerk Hope Christansen processed 132 items in August and September. She managed the intake of 307 books, most of which were transferred from the Business and Science & History divisions. An additional 22
items previously sent to Cataloging for original records were returned to the division. All things considered, these were among the busiest months Christansen has experience in her five years with the division.

- Pellegrino has been providing valuable service to the division as a cataloger. In September alone, he cataloged about 15 new titles. More than half of these were unique items, not owned by other libraries, requiring original cataloging. Pellegrino also provided full call numbers for 10 items which had previously been held only by town and branch libraries and some modifications for items which had been transferred from other Central Divisions. He also resolved several cataloging issues involving duplicate records and incorrect call numbers.

Special Collections
- Ridarsky, Finn and Koehler spent approximately 15 hours each throughout August and September accessing and inventorying historical materials housed at Thomson Reuter’s Rochester office for transfer to the library. Thomson Reuters is closing its Rochester office at the end of September, transferring all functions to the corporate office in Minnesota. The company has had offices in Rochester since it acquired the Lawyer’s Cooperative Publishing Co. (LCP) in 1989. Fortunately, company officials recognized that LCP, founded here in 1882, was historically significant to Rochester and determined that it would be best for all parties to keep the company’s pre-1989 archives in Rochester. The library accepted 50 boxes of papers, ledgers, photographs, and miscellaneous material. We intend to apply for a grant from the New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program in 2020 to process the collection and create a finding aid to guide researchers. It is a fascinating collection, and we look forward to sharing more information as we delve into its riches in coming months.

- Ridarsky and two curators from the Rochester Museum & Science Center accompanied City legal staff to a warehouse to conduct a preliminary assessment of materials that has been transferred to City ownership by the owners of the now-defunct Frederick Douglass Resource Center on King Street. The cache included computer equipment, catering paraphernalia, exhibit display cases, printed exhibit boards, etc., most of which is of no cultural heritage value. However, there were a few items that caught our attention, including a small collection of original papers and photographs that appear to have belonged to former Monroe County Legislator and City Councilman Ronald J. Good, who was among the earliest African American members of both of those governing bodies. The warehouse was packed so full that it was impossible to determine what other gems might be hiding in the stacks. The City plans to remove the contents to a larger space to be more fully assessed at a later date.

- Staff and volunteers continued their work on the map inventory project, which addresses several concerns regarding the more than 3,000 maps in our collection, including the lack of an up to date index. The process is also allowing us to correct organizational concerns throughout the collection, to provide proper housing for all of the maps, and to identify materials that will need additional conservation work and/or encapsulation. Finally, it is allowing us to identify rare and high-value materials for future digitization and to move these materials to secure storage areas. Fess estimates that the project was 60 percent complete at the end of September.

- We took in four new special collections in August: a scrapbook related to Mayor Clarence Van Zandt and a collection of glass plate negatives from the Villnow family, ca. 1910. Both were transferred to the library by the Ontario County Historical Society. An additional collections arrived in September, a small group of 7 cabinet card photographs taken by Rochester photographers (all anonymous portraits). We also received a ledger book from the New York Central Railroad East Rochester Yards.

- Fess continued processing major collections housed in the document cases. We completed finding aids for the papers of the Fellows family (farmers in Lyons, late 19th century), the Moses and William R. Seward papers (prominent 19th century businessman and banker, respectively), the Ward family papers (multiple members across three generations), the Charles Kittredge papers (early Greece Presbyterian minister), the
Edward C. Widman collection of World War I letters (Widman collected letters from his coworkers serving in the Great War), the Col. Samuel P. Moulthrop papers (Rochester educator, turn of the 20th century), the Riley Stevens papers (mid-19th century Canandaigua businessman), the Nathaniel and Jesse Shepard papers (pioneer settlers of West Bloomfield), the American Institute of Banking, Rochester Chapter papers (banking education organization, pre-World War II), the Villnow family photographs (116 glass plate negatives, circa 1910-1911), Matthew M. Hall ledgers (engineer on the second Erie Canal aqueduct), Lois Green Stone papers (contemporary local author), and the Collection of Cabinet Card Photographs (7 anonymous cabinet cards by local photographers, circa 1885-1890). The Mayor Van Zandt scrapbook was accrued into the Subway photos collection.

- Volunteer Noeme Liestman continued her steady progress on the inventory of the ephemera collection. This project has a similar set of goals to the map inventory project, addressing concerns regarding the thousands of posters and prints in our collection, including the lack of an up to date overall collection index and the lack of any indexing for case J. It is also allowing us to correct organizational concerns throughout the collection, to provide proper housing for all the ephemera, and to identify materials that will need additional conservation work and/or encapsulation.

Digital Projects
Rochester Voices: The Erie Canal for the Classroom project to develop educational tools on the Erie Canal for 4th grade remains on track for successful completion in January 2020. Educational Consultant Andrea Geglia is developing 8-10 classroom lessons, while Finn works to gather and upload more than 100 original primary resources—digitized maps, photographs, broadsides, articles, a travel journal, and more—to support student learning. Finn and Geglia will introduce the project to teachers at the 2019 Annual Conference of the Rochester Area Council for the Social Studies on Saturday, October 19, at School of the Arts. The materials and resources that come out of this project will be mounted on RochesterVoices.org in a new Erie Canal topic section, and in the Classroom Connections section for 4th grade.

Social Media
- Staff from the Local History & Genealogy Division contributed content for 11 social media posts in August: 3 on Twitter, 5 on Facebook, and 3 blog entries on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. The reach of these posts was 7,002: 3,392 on Facebook, 907 on Twitter, and 2,703 on our blog; 161 people engaged with our posts on Facebook, 8 on Twitter, and 63 on our blog. Data for September was not available at the time of this report.

- PT Library Assistant Emily Morry contributed two blog entries in August and September: “From Liquors to Bitters, Pt. 3: The History of the Fee Brothers” (reached 1,086 people, engaged 33 viewers, and generated 36 link clicks) and “Listen to me, I’ve got a Stereo, Stereo (scope)!”. Substitute Librarian Christopher Brennan contributed two entries. The first, “The Torchbearer: Howard W. Coles (November 12, 1903-December 10, 1996), Part 1,” had a reach of 998, engaged 23 viewers, and generated 3 link clicks. The second, “The Torchbearer: Howard W. Coles (November 12, 1903-December 10, 1996), Part 2,” had a reach of 619, engaged 7 viewers, and generated 8 link clicks. Christansen contributed her second post in the series “What’s New in Local History & Genealogy (LHGD Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 2).” This series provides engaging and insightful reviews and synopses of selected recently added collection material. The effort Christansen has put into this series is evident, and we are fortunate that she has made this a priority and clearly a labor of love.

Volunteer/Intern hours
Docents from the Rochester Genealogical Society volunteered 24 hours in September and assisted 5 patrons. (They did not work in August because the library was closed on Saturdays when they are normally scheduled.) We were also assisted by six volunteers who provided a total of 78 hours of service in August and 89.25 hours in
September (Nancy Martin – 9.75 hours; Ira Srole – 56 hours; Kevin Allen – 12.5 hours; Noeme Liestman – 9.5 hours; Ciara Arnold – 52.5 hours; and Karen Knoll – 3 hours).

Anecdotes
The Local History team received a note of appreciation from an out-of-town researcher seeking information for a book on late-19th century female cyclists. Marjorie Stockford, who lives in Maine, reached out to Historical Researcher Michelle Finn in advance of her visit to town, hoping Finn could direct her to materials on Elsa von Blumen, who once famously raced a horse on her bicycle at the Driving Park. Finn shared some online resources and connected Stockford with Nick Zumbulyadis, the recognized authority on the history of the Maplewood neighborhood and of the Driving Park. Mr. Zumbulyadis in turn connected Stockford with former City Councilmember Bob Stevenson, Elsa von Blumen’s great nephew. Knowing she would not be in the office during Stockford’s visit, Finn passed the inquiry along to the division’s reference staff, and Library Assistant Emily Morry identified several additional resources to illuminate von Blumen’s life in Rochester. While at the library, Stockford was further assisted by Osborne, Pellegrino, and Fess. Stockford was quite satisfied with the help library staff provided, as expressed in her thank-you message:

“Just a quick note of thanks to let you know how helpful you have been to me. I met with both Nick Z and Bob Stevenson when I was in Rochester this past weekend, and the team on the Local History desk at the library (especially Brandon, Jay and Gabe) were incredibly helpful to me. I reviewed a lot of the materials that had been researched [by Morry] before I arrived and dug up several more, and Brandon answered a lot of my questions about what life was like in Rochester at the time Caroline Kiner/Elsa von Blumen lived there. A local patron even overhead my interest and provided a link to a fantastic article about her (in French...) to Jay, who then shared it with me. So overall, you can see it was a very fruitful trip. Please express my thanks to the library team. And I hope you don’t mind if I’m back in touch with future questions. I will also keep you apprised of progress with my book.”

Reynolds Media Center, Joe Born reporting

Hoopla
Hoopla circulations for September totaled 1297: (296 Movies/TV, 575 Audiobooks, 87 Music, 223 eBooks, 116 Comics). 384 patrons used the service during September with 46 new users registering and 75 patrons using all seven circs (20%). Average cost was $2.13/item.

Sciences and History. Darlene Richards reporting

Programs & Services
- Armond Collins (URMC medical student) worked with the Library Resource Outreach Center for the month of September as part of the Community Health Improvement Course (CHIC) and interviewed several homeless patrons to find out some of their greatest needs. Some suggestions were backpacks, water bottles, and bus passes. Bishop Vélez is interested in doing a donation drive during the upcoming holidays for backpacks and water bottles. She will work with the Library Resource Outreach Center, Collins, and library staff to hopefully make this happen.
- As part of the Fringe Festival, Bishop Vélez invited Meredith Gozo, Curator for Rare Books and Manuscripts at the Miner Libraries, to present a fascinating but creepy medical history program “Doctors, Healers, Alchemists, Quacks: Disturbing Stories from the Medical Past.” A total of 66 people attended Meredith’s program was such a hit that she has been asked to present it to University of Rochester staff.
The Community Health Improvement Course (CHIC) through the University of Rochester started up once again and Health Central had a medical student intern for the month of September. Andre Biscaye, a young man with an interest in psychology, answered health questions and did basic health screenings. As part of his coursework, Biscaye conducted a brief survey at Central and four branch libraries to learn how people looked for health information and whether they had heard of Health Central’s services. Most had not, which indicates much work to be done in marketing. In addition to the survey data, Biscaye helped Sarah Bishopp Vélez review the goals of Health Central and suggested ways to try to better meet the main goal – health literacy. To that end, he worked with Graphic Designer Corinne Clar to develop some awesome marketing materials, including bookmarks with a new slogan – Knowledge is Healthy – and Health Central’s basic information. Biscaye also made suggestions for other projects and tasks that future CHIC students could work on. Overall, Biscaye was a wonderful addition to Health Central and was exceedingly helpful in furthering its mission of promoting healthier communities.

Anecdotes
A patron called to request a book by historian/author David Horwitz; no copies existed in MCLS. Librarian Steve Nash and Sarah Bishopp Vélez worked together to locate a source to purchase a copy. The patron was delighted to hear that the book would be ordered and held for her; she followed up with a thank you to Director Uttaro for the efforts made by staff.

Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs
Ping Pong and Chess has been picking up quite well this month. Traffic has increased considerably in the last two weeks. Teen Central continues to run random physical fitness tests and often rewards kids with either gift cards or food. Jeff Bostic, Digital Media Associate continues to have incredibly fresh and unique programs. The Girls Who Code program may not continue due to low attendance.

Antoine McDonald created the Young Men’s Book Club and it has been well received thus far. The first meeting was held on September 16, and was designed to act as pilot of what’s to come. The teens have enjoyed reading out loud with each other as well as having discussions around themes. Also, they have already developed the habit of writing down words they didn’t know and defining them within the session. The only downfall is trying to make ten plus teenage guys stay focused, but it’s getting better. I’m considering introducing a writing component to gauge their reading comprehension and improve their writing skills.

imagineYOU Media Lab, Jeff Bostic reporting

269 Visitors

Contest
The September Media contest ended on the 30th. Ky’Johnna won with her entry. She put herself in front of a Korean University. The poster for the October contest has now been put up as well.
Other promotion for Photoshop has also been placed on posters around the lab.

**Media Lab**

The lab was able to help a young man make a cover for the podcast he wants to start. A class that visited imagineYOU on a field trip had fun making photoshopped pictures.

**Branch Library Updates**

_Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting_

The week of September 9-13, I participated in a monthly cohort meeting and convening session with Strive Together in Washington D.C. During this session, my team, which includes Jackie Campbell, ROC the Future; Amy Schiavi, RCSD; Karen Fahy, RCSD; and Luis Perez, Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association; and me, finalized strategies and implementation for the Roc the Future Early Grade Literacy Outcome Team. Currently, we are working with Schools #5, #19 & #39 to improve literacy skills and parent engagement.

Branch Administration Librarian Pat Connor spent time organizing RPL attendance at RCSD open houses. Connor and Dr. Reeves attended the Open House at Andrew J. Townsend School #39. Families who registered their children for library cards were given a bag with library information and a few basic school supplies. School supplies were also given out to registering families at John Williams School #5 Open House by Shamika Fusco and by Pat Connor at the Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School #39’s Family Picnic. These three schools have been targeted by ROC the Future as a part of the Early Grade Literacy priority. Connor has been in touch with both the principals and parent liaisons to inquire about future family events where library card registration can continue. (Priority #2 — Sustainability and Resources)

Brand Administration Librarian Xandi DiMatteo was able to develop her relationship with Miranda Stefano from Hillside to include offering the faculty and staff professional development. She will be speaking about graphic novels and literacy during their Superintendent’s Conference day. DiMatteo is getting encouraging positive feedback on her lists of young adult graphic novel recommendations. She had a blast doing outreach at Jones Square Park on National “Talk Like a Pirate Day” with her mateys Shamika Fusco (Lyell) and Evanna DiSalvo (Maplewood). Yar!
Safe To Be Smart Program, Derrick Coley reporting

The Arnett site
- Shetora Banks engaged the youth in a game of Monopoly and a real-world discussion about real estate. The teens related the game to buying and selling real estate in their neighborhoods. Banks showed them real housing prices and loan applications and discussed down payment percentages.
- She has been mentoring Adaia, a late graduate from the Rochester City School District, on finding grant money for college on Fastweb.org and other private scholarship sites.

The Phillis Wheatley site
- Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford facilitated back to school crafts by having students “Bling” their new school binders.
- She also had the youth participate in “Zentangle Art” with aluminum foil along with pinecone crafts.
- Bostick-Beckford and the children’s librarian Alexandria Haehn also assisted in the programming.

The Maplewood site
- Yaliza Frank continues to build positive relationships with the teens. The new school year has exposed her to brand new youth who did not frequent the branch during the summer months.
- Frank facilitated a group discussion with youth about treating others the way we want to be treated using respectful and appropriate language in conversations in and out of the library.
- Frank has been mentoring some students who have told her they feel anxious and nervous in their new schools. She worked on building their self-esteem and relationships.

The Lincoln site
- Vera Haygood welcomed teens for the school year. Haygood assisted youth with quiet space to read and relax after-school.
- She assisted a teen with homework on the interpretation of a poem by Langston Hughes.
- Haygood also helped several graduated teens with online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and college applications.
- She continues to provide ongoing assistance for teens in need of job readiness training and professional email account set-up.

The Sully site
- George Carter facilitated a STEM program with teens called, “Clean Water Science.” The teens worked in teams and followed direction from the science kit to learn about clean and polluted water and their differences. The youth engaged in critical thinking and dialogue about why we need clean water.
- Carter facilitated a teen reading group with the “Voice of Knowledge” book. The teens took turns reading paragraphs and having a lively discussion afterward!

Teen Central site
- Lydia Williams and John Hylton facilitated an in-house teen pizza movie night for good behavior.
- School is back in session and Hylton had the new teens engaged with ping pong and gaming.
- The interactive mural in the Link is finished. Hylton is in the process of scheduling a ribbon cutting ceremony.
• Williams and Hylton have calmed down some early gang activity that showed up with a small group of teens. They put the teens out that were stirring up violence and secured the teen space early with the advice of myself and the Rochester Police Department.

*Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting*

**Programs**
- Youth Services Librarian Nancy Cholewa facilitated numerous craft projects and science-based projects for children and teens this month. Her children’s craft projects included making colored library hats and get-well cards for our literacy aide, Prudence Anderson-Leusch, who was out for several days. Cholewa reports that “It was a lot of fun working with the little ones.” The cards they made for Ms. P were very sweet and heartfelt. Ms. P. absolutely loved receiving them, they surely made her feel better.”
- Cholewa loves it when she can put leftovers to work. We painted leaves of different shapes and sizes and pressed them on our t-shirts. Our program was almost derailed by the rain, making leaf collection difficult but we included leaf collection as a part of the program, and explored the neighborhood plant life from weeds to trees. The kids came to understand more about color mixing and color values, as they layered the leaf prints to create their desired pattern on the shirt. Things got a little messy at times, but the end results were very...interesting.

*Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting*

**Programs**
The big event for September was Charlotte Branch’s centennial celebration, commemorating 100 years of service to the neighborhood. For our September local history offering, retired Charlotte librarian Maureen Whalen gave a lecture on the history of the Charlotte Branch. Charlotte Branch opened its doors at 2:00 p.m. on September 5, 1919, and by pure coincidence Whalen’s talk was scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on September 5, 2019!

On Saturday, September 7, we had our main celebration. Activities included a sidewalk book sale, a petting zoo, a face painter, and a comedy magic show. The Children’s room had a number of craft activities and made popcorn continuously. We had a selfie photo station and a guest book in which patrons could record their memories of the library. We also gave away 150 commemorative reusable tote bags, with a logo designed by Corrine Clar (Duplicating/Graphics department). Sincere thanks go to Friends
and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library for generously funding the performers and the giveaways. A special thank-you to Patty Uttaro, who had the brilliant idea of commissioning a lighthouse-shaped cake, which she contributed to the event. It was a wonderful focal point, tasted great, and served a lot of people.

We had participation from local businesses and organizations, as well. Bill Gray’s and Hose 22 restaurants both gave us gift cards to use for a drawing. The Charlotte Lighthouse Society and Greece Historical Society staffed an information table. Charlotte Community Association was terrifically supportive. They featured the library in the CCA September newsletter, and on the day of the event they grilled hot dogs and provided beverages and a sheet cake. Also, Abbott’s Frozen Custard volunteered to distribute free ice cream.

Local government was in attendance. Mayor Warren’s office was represented by Andy Rau. Senator Robach’s office was represented by Patricia Anthony, and state assemblywoman Jamie Romeo was in attendance. Tony Micciche (Monroe County legislator) was here as well. Patty Uttaro gave some opening remarks, followed by the government representatives. We received several proclamations.

All in all, it was a nice party. We had some branch heads and former Charlotte employees show up to wish us well, and Dr. Reeves joined us to share the good times, as did RPL Trustees Glenn Gardner and Dick Hamilton. The weather cooperated and attendance was good. It’s hard to accurately estimate how many neighborhood folks showed up, but I’ll hazard a guess that it was more than 200. Our door count for the day was close to 1200, but that included kids constantly running in and out ...always good for the numbers!

My thanks to the management team, FFRPL, and the RPL board for their support. The entire Charlotte staff worked the party and did a terrific job of keeping everything on track. Special thanks to the Charlotte planning team, consisting of Karen Duff (adult librarian), Donna Owen (clerk), Diane Hummel (clerk), and Ann Marie Buonemani (page). Their creativity and hard work made the event happen. Reuben Burch, Debi Mansour, Corrine Clar and Alicia Gunther all have our gratitude for their generous and unfailing assistance. Thanks also to Pat Connor (Branch Administration) who came to help out and let the staff break away from their posts to enjoy a bit of the festivities.

Branch head Maria Heeks-Heinlein from Sully showed up to wish us well, and then followed up with this email, which I love: “You guys put together a great celebration today!! I had a great time, thank you for making my day a better one. I decided to stop at SIPS [a local coffeehouse] for a chai since I was in the area. One of the baristas in here is telling the customers about the party. She is telling everyone about the Charlotte Branch Library, the petting zoo, the popcorn, the hotdogs...etc. So far everyone is liking this news they are hearing. It sounds like my day was not the only one that was improved by the Charlotte branch.”

Let’s do it again in another hundred years! Mark the date.
Fredrick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clark Reporting

Programs
- Sarah Ngo set up a table at the School #12 Open House and it was a success. Ngo registered 18 kids and adults for library cards, passed out over 50 books and gave away small toys that were donated to the library. Ngo had over 300 participants.
- Ngo did a fall outdoor program with Highland Park Conservancy. She read stories about squirrels and then took families on a scavenger hunt through the park. A member from the Conservancy was assisting to talk about different plants and animals that the participants came across. There were about 22 participants.

Anecdotes/Other
Douglass received some really nice compliments this month! One patron said she enjoyed coming here for our good selection and because the building is always so clean, and two other patrons said that Douglass is “a wonderful branch” because we create fun displays and go the extra mile to help them find their materials. A mother and daughter were very excited to learn that my Science Fiction and Fantasy display featured all women authors.

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs
- In September, as part of the Rochester Fringe Festival, the Joseph Avenue Arts and Cultural Alliance organized a juggling program from Ted Baumhauer. Attendees were given instructions on how to make DIY juggling balls and lessons on how to juggle. It was a complete success and attendees had a wonderful time! This month Library Assistant Jasmine Santiago focused on connecting with the community, communicating with the participants in Raising A Reader, and developing the Lincoln Branch collection. In fact, through outreach efforts, an old connection from School #8 contacted Santiago to reestablishing their relationship with the Lincoln Branch!
- During September, the teens continued to learn basic Japanese speaking and writing skills thanks to our wonderful volunteer Pat. The teens are very engaged and have a great time. We have had several patrons inquire about the program and then come to take part in the lessons. Pat will be wrapping up the program series in the beginning of October, but we’re looking for additional dates in the future where she can continue this program.

Toy Library
This month the Toy Library began the much-anticipated renovations. New windows have been installed in the space and the installation of the flooring has begun. The space will remain closed until October 21 to complete painting and re-assembly of the space, but we are excited to open back up to show everyone the beautiful changes that have been made!

Anecdotes/Other
- In the month of September, Tim Ryan was able to assist a teen patron with their U.S. History homework. The patron asked for assistance with their homework as they were having difficulty understanding the construction and the separation of powers of the United States Government. Ryan took the time to explain how each branch of government works in coordination with the others, as well as the inherent powers given
to each branch as defined by the Constitution of the United States. The teen patron was extremely grateful and mentioned to Ryan that she appreciated his help and the she wished he was her teacher because he explained the information in a clear, concise, and interesting way.

- While September has been a nice break from the craziness of summer, we’ve been busy coordinating the renovations and changes in the Toy Library. The work is coming along nicely, and we are very excited to see the completed project. Sarah Fitts-Romig and I also had a chance to meet with representatives of the insurance company AP Intego. They’ve been looking for a community organization to become more involved with for volunteer work. It was a wonderful meeting and we left with some exciting ideas on how they may be able to get more involved and help out at both the Toy Library as well as the Lincoln teen and children’s services.

**Lyell branch, Shamika Fusco reporting**

**Programs**

- Now that we’ve changed to Mystery Tuesdays, we have been asked most weeks about what we might be doing on any given Tuesday! We hope that these afternoon activities continue to be of interest and bring in families to share in the fun! So far, we have made lots of fun things with Air Dry Clay and used up some fall crafts that were found in storage.

- ARRRRRRrrrrrr Matey! We made pirate hats, eye patches, and watched Disney’s *Treasure Planet!* The children really enjoyed it and we had a few kids volunteer to do the prep work.

- World Wide Spin in Public Day: As a fiber crafter, Ms. Sue enjoys educating the public about what it is that she does. Most people know about knitting or crocheting. But many people don’t realize what spinning is, or how the threads that makes up their clothing is made. A friend of Ms. Sue volunteered to come and visit and demonstrate spinning for a little while. This event turned out to be everything that we hoped it could be!

- Thanks to a wonderful patron that Ms. Shamika had a relationship with from back in the Toy Library days; Lyell was selected as a site for March for Science. March for Science is a “diverse, nonpartisan group that promotes science for the common good and equitable access to scientific education and opportunities. We advocate for responsible scientific practices and evidence-based policies in the public interest.

**August Produce Distribution**

This family was super excited to be helping out during the produce distribution. They asked to get their picture taken. *(Priority#2 Sustainability & Resources)*

**Lyell Loyalty Program**

The Loyalty Card Program was such a success. More than 150 people participated. We received 18 raffle entries and two participants won. The loyalty program has allowed for patrons to receive gifts upon completions as well as
throughout the process. Children can receive popsicles for checking out books or volunteering. All prizes are donated.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- For the children, tweens, and teens, holding an open crafting activity has continued to be a success. We have been crafting every Wednesday. Recently a large supply of wallpaper samples were added to our craft supplies that allowed kids to make cards, posters and letters with tons of different types of patterns. The wallpaper was a big hit with the kids and a great way to get rid of some of the supplies that have been going unnoticed in our closet.

- Our monthly activities were very successful in September. Our dominoes friends created some really cool patterns this month. There were some elaborate setups and even some children collaborated on a few designs.

- In September we had a few special days, Talk Like a Pirate Day, and Comic Book Day. Comic Book Day involved creating comics and drawing comic book characters. Coloring is always a big activity, so our kids were very enthusiastic to participate. During Talk like a Pirate Day children created their own treasure chests and filled them with pirate booty. The cardboard chests were made from a shipping box and the kids really enjoyed the challenge of figuring how to fold the flat box into a treasure chest.

Outreach

- Evanna DiSalvo attended the “We the People” March and Resource Fair. She set up a table with information about Maplewood’s programs and found a program that Maplewood can offer to patrons called Voting 101 about the basics of voting. For example, what is a ballot and how do you fill it out.

- DiSalvo visited Wachuku Foundation and brought a picture BINGO game. The game turned into a 3-way language vocabulary lesson as all were learning English words, the Spanish speaking participants taught the Somali student Spanish words, and the Somali student taught the other students’ Somali words.

- DiSalvo attended the “meet your neighbors” potluck at the Lexington Avenue Farms where she did a book give away and was able to fill their little library. The children’s librarian, Mark Hafer is going to look into collaboration to start holding a few story times there.
Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg Reporting

Programs
- Breakerspace: This month we kicked off this new program at Monroe. Kids dove right in with screwdrivers and inquisitive brains. A homeschooling family said they would share the program with their co-op, and they think a bunch of families will be interested in attending.
- Explore Navratri: A small group turned out for this program on Indian culture and the Hindu holiday of Navratri. Here is a photo of a few of them trying on Indian clothing. We brainstormed with the visiting artist (Kulture Khazana) on how to bring more people in for Explore Diwali in October. We decided to require registration, to offer traditional Indian snacks, as well as a craft activity. So far we have several children registered.
- This month we had both a First Friday Coffee Hour and a Saturday Social. Our patrons have come to expect and enjoy these programs. It is a fun way for patrons to mingle with staff and other patrons. During the month of September, Monroe’s Food Truck gave away 305 items.

Outreach & Community Engagement
Initiated outreach with four teachers/administrators, including RMSC Preschool, #23 School, and the Monroe YMCA. We have all 2019-2020 dates on the calendar for School #23 UPK classes, and the first visit scheduled for a first-grade class is November 7. We’re keeping up our contacts with SEAC. Since being included in the August 2019 South East Area Coalition Newsletter, the Monroe Branch Children’s Room programs were sent out in the September 2019 issue. The plan is to send our programs each month and to improve our reach in the area.

Sully Branch, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs
- Connected Communities contacted Sully about a mini Clean Sweep program they wanted to do with Glory House International outside the library on Sunday, September 22. This was part of the Glory House International’s Love Sunday event. They worked with the Southeast Quadrant Neighborhood Service Center to obtain the tools and mulch they would need to get this job done. I worked with them on finding a place to store the tools until that Sunday. The mini clean sweep was a success. They weeded and mulched the trees next to the library, picked up garbage around the building and in the field, and they made a huge difference to appearance around the outside of the entire building. We are grateful for the community coming together to help make the neighborhood look so nice.
- We’re excited about the Rochester Rehabilitation Center bringing a benefits navigator to the library on a weekly basis. Our first session for this program was in September, and the navigator was able to reach a few patrons to offer assistance. This Navigator will be able to assist people in working on budgeting, finding affordable housing, and in applying for benefits. (Priority 1.A.2 Education & Engagement. Every RPL location addresses the unique needs of their communities)
• On September 24, we set up tables for Voter Registration Day. After we planned this tabling, a regular patron, who is involved with the League of Women Voters, asked library staff if she and her teenage daughter could set up a table to help register people to vote. The mother and daughter duo were able to reach people in the early evening. Both groups were able to register 14 people that day, they also spoke to several young patrons about the importance of voting.

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

**Programs**

• We made embossed foil art and decorated our designs with sharpie markers. We talked about what geometric means. The girls worked together to help each other make beautiful squares.

• We had an Oreo tasting for our Mix and Mingle event. The clear winner was the mint flavor closely followed by lemon. The Mystery Flavor tasted like a cinnamon bun. One teen, Jason, loved the Halloween Oreos so much, he begged to take home the leftovers. I was happy to let him do that and made small bags of the other left-over cookies for all the kids. The flavor that was least liked was peanut butter.

• This month we combined the monthly book club with our local author visit. The book presented was “South of Little Rock” by George Rollie Adams. We had a small but lively group in attendance. Mr. Adams really appreciated the feedback he received and gave the participants autographed copies of his book.

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

Children’s Librarian Alexandra Haehn attended Open Houses for Schools #3 and #2. At School #3 she learned that three children who visit the library frequently are starting kindergarten there this year. I had an opportunity to talk with the children and give them books. The principal at School #2 remembered Haehn from last year and was very happy that she was able to attend. She talked to people about the programs the library has in September and October, and that tutoring will start in October.

**Anecdotes**

• One of the families that visit the library has a two-year-old. I have so much enjoyed watching her grow over the summer. She could barely put sentences together and now she can. It shows that coming to play with other children and reading with her older siblings helps.

• One of our schizophrenic patrons came in talking to himself. The teens found that to be funny, so we took a moment to learn what schizophrenia is and how it affects people. Now that they are informed, the teens say they will be more understanding of people with this type of mental illness.
Visiting author, George Rollie Adams toured the library prior to his event. Mr. Adams expressed this about our facility, “I was impressed with the facility and the level of use I saw there late on a weekday afternoon.” Mr. Adams shared this statement about the event, “two women who sat in the front row are the first African-Americans whom I did not already know that I have had an opportunity to discuss the book in any meaningful way with, and your questions and reactions were both useful and encouraging to me”.

**Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting**

**Programs**

- Pat Finnerty had two programs for adults held during September. The first one was “Essential Oils 101.” We had 15 people attend the workshop where people learned about the benefits of essential oils and made their own custom blend – which people loved. They were able to take the blends home with them in a roller ball dispenser.
- On September 30, we featured “Fashion Reselling: How to Make Money from Your Closet.” The speaker talked about how to sell items online using sites such as Ebay and Poshmark. The attendees (15) learned how to make money from items they already own. After the programs one said, “I have some vintage items in my closet that I have been wanting to sell for years. This workshop gave me the confidence and knowledge to go ahead and sell them.”

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

On Saturday, September 14, Finnerty, Kate Bliss and I hosted a table at the North Winton Village Festival of the Arts. Wolf and Finnerty split the day between staffing the branch while it was open and staffing the table, so we always had two people at the festival table. We saw a lot of our library patrons at the festival and they all had positive comments about the library. Some people were surprised to hear about some of the services we offer – especially our curbside service. For those who weren’t familiar with the library, it was a good opportunity to promote the library and our upcoming programs/events. We had a large supply of bookmarks and pencils to give to people, as well as free holds card (four free holds at one-dollar value!). We also gave bubbles and temporary tattoos to children. We had seventy-five people entered to win the two prizes we were raffling off; a book bundle of donated books and a Barnes and Noble Gift Card. This gave us another 47 email addresses to add to our mailing list.

**Anecdotes/Other**

The Winton Branch was closed to the public on September 20. Much of our staff normally works on Fridays, so we had a few crews working on different projects. Ashley Warney and Bliss cleaned and rearranged our magazine selection, got rid of old shelf labels, and removed tape residue in that area. Pat Finnerty and Brett Kucharski moved the Large Print Collection to a different spot within the library and relocated the Audio Book Collection to Large Print’s previous spot. Dave Colbert shifted the Children’s Fiction collection, so it starts in a corner, and moved the Children’s Graphic Novels to its greatly expanded new spot. Wolf and Slocombe worked on organizing and consolidating Winton’s craft supplies, so now we know what we have and where it is. It was a very productive day for all of us, and the library looks great!
**Selected Meetings & Outputs**  
**September 14 – October 25 (Uttaro)**

**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)
- City Dept. of Environmental Services Commissioner, Norm Jones (bimonthly)

**Other Meetings**
- Crafting Democracy Opening Reception
- Unveiling of Frederick Douglass portraits on Rundel 2
- Opening of Hiroshima Exhibit
- Dennis Williams, Teen Central Supervisor
- Early Grade Literacy Planning Team Meeting
- MCLS/RPL Retirees Event
- Dedication of Sons of the American Revolution Plaque in Local History Division
- Census 2020 Meeting at RRLC
- Racial Equity & Justice Initiative Conference (REJI)
- Alison Meyers, Writers & Books Executive Director
- Upstate Social Sessions
- GRASA Program Locator Development Meeting at RIT
- Josh Pettinger, Wicked Squid Productions
- Vivian Palladoro, Growing Downtown
- Charles Reaves, Literacy Volunteers – Dr. Reeves and Joan Lee
- MCLS Fund Balance Policy Review with Trustees
- Penfield Library Board of Trustees
- MCLS Adult Services Librarians
- MCLS Digital Content Team Planning
- Press Conference – Dr. Ibram Kendi at Hochstein
- Intelligent Community Forum
- Maplewood Community Library Meeting
- Conference Call: Harvard City Leadership Initiative’s Data and Evidence Program
- Playwalk Ribbon Cutting
- Lights On Afterschool Press Conference
- Rochester Regional Legislative Breakfast
- MCLS REJI Team meeting
Email Activity
September 2019

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