TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: March 25, 2020  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – March 2020  

**Action Items (Moved to April Agenda)**

**Amendment, Tri-Delta Resources (Harrison)**

To accelerate rollout of Branch library public computers, and in support of Windows upgrades at all RPL locations, Library Automation staff have requested additional hours from Tri-Delta through the end of the fiscal year. Tri-Delta maintains an annual equipment service agreement approved by the Board in June 2019. An additional $4,000 will provide a block of consultant hours for PC set-up and Windows server configuration. Funding is available from the operating budget for Library Automation professional services. This will increase the current agreement to a total not-to-exceed of $7,000.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of an amended agreement with Tri-Delta Resources, Inc. for an additional $4,000, with a revised not to exceed total of $7,000, for the services described.

**Report Items**

**RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting**

**Recommended Reading**


**RPL Strategic Plan Progress**

**Sustainability & Resources**
Advocacy - Following in-district meetings with the area’s State Senators and Assembly Members, MCLS set up meetings for and travelled to Albany for the annual Advocacy Day (2/25/2020). Uttaro, Traub, and Gunther each had meetings on the Monday before Advocacy Day, so elected not to organize a bus this year. Traub attended the ALA-NYLA Key Congressional Contact training, an effort focusing on library legislation at the federal level, while Gunther attended the NYLA Leadership and Management Academy. The MCLS contingency was fewer in number than most years (9) but received well by all our legislators. We primarily discussed the proposed cuts towards library construction aid and the three bills that are working their way through legislation that would impact libraries. Towards the end of the day, we met with outgoing State Senator Joe Robach and presented him with a card-catalog plaque recognizing his strong support of libraries over many years.

Stewardship & Curation
Facility and capital updates: this spring will see many activities for the RPL with multiple construction and design projects underway or beginning in the coming months. We are in process of negotiating CIP requests for annual IT allocations, Rundel masonry work and Bausch & Lomb building HVAC; the final CIP will be shared with all proposed operating budget changes in May. Several project updates are as follows:

- Rundel Silt Removal Project: This NYSED-funded grant project was completed in early March, with repair of the original basin flush valve and removal of 6,000 cubic yards of sediment, ensuring optimal building cooling chiller operations. Given the ongoing turbidity of the river, it is likely sediment clearing in a reduced capacity may be required every few years. The City and Library will pursue a bid for term contract services in 2021; the current contractor provided fill and ramping for improved access in the future.
- Master Space Plan Phase 4, Technology Center: Construction has continued during the closure and remains on track.
- Rundel Terrace Reconstruction: A groundbreaking ceremony celebrated the start of construction on March 5. This will be a two-year project. It will involve the removal and re-building of the north terrace (Broad Street), as well as the removal and reconstruction of the sidewalks and bus shelter along the east terrace (South Avenue). The east terrace portion will have an impact on building accessibility, while maintaining public access to Rundel for operations at all times. Library staff are attending bi-weekly construction meetings to review schedules and work scope for the project duration, given complexity of this project. There are three contractors involved with this project: Crane-Hogan (General Contractor), Hewitt-Young (Electrical Contractor), and Cannon & Noto (Plumbing Contractor). As shared previously, there will be four art installations by Chevo Studios. The project website will be updated as progress continues: [https://www.cityofrochester.gov/rundelterrace/](https://www.cityofrochester.gov/rundelterrace/)
- Lincoln Branch Library design: Proposals are due in late March for design services, with over ten firms attending a site visit on March 5th. The first phase of the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan, interior design services will include program development, schematic design and cost estimating to enable an application for NYSED library construction grant. The focus of the project is to improve sightlines, provide safe and secure entry, improve signage and access, and optimize access and visibility to the Toy Library. We anticipate this to be a six-month project beginning in June 2020.
- Douglass Green Roof Installation: Titan Roofing will begin construction of a green roofing application at the Douglass branch this summer. This project was partially funded from a state Water Quality Improvement Program grant, which will act as a demonstration of newer green roofing technology as well as reducing storm water runoff and add to building insulation. An image of the current plan is below.
Technology updates: The FY21 round of Federal E-rate program includes new proposal solicitation for internet and digital transmission services, as well as a firewall replacement. Recommendations will be submitted to the MCLS Board for consideration of three-year agreements for internet and digital transmission services in March. We anticipate competitive pricing to enable substantial increases in bandwidth for all member libraries similar to current rates.

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Central Library Updates

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

- Linda Paciocco from SewGreen@Rochester taught a three-part sewing series in which patrons learned how to sew three different quilt blocks. In the first class students learned how to sew the Nine Patch Block. Paciocco explained how to cut and rearrange the block to make the Nine Patch disappear. The Log Cabin Block was taught in the second class and in the third session patrons learned the Whirlwind Block.
Students said they were encouraged by this class to go home and create quilts using one of these methods.

- The Arts Division invited all to celebrate Black History Month while listening to some uplifting music with a performance by the RIT Gospel Ensemble. The mission of the RIT Gospel Ensemble, founded in 1981, is to inspire others while sharing the unique flavor and cultural heritage of the Gospel tradition through the ministry of song. All ages enjoyed this uplifting music.

- The extraordinary drumming and dance group “Womba Africa” performed for an appreciative crowd that gave their high-energy show a standing ovation. The nine musicians from Ghana brought drums of all sizes, a bamboo flute, percussion instruments and a traditional marimba-type instrument. They completely charmed the audience, getting them to clap and even dance along with them. It was a wonderful cultural exchange. As one audience member told them “I wish everyone could feel the joy that [Womba] brings, it is something that we need so much now!”

- The 2020: African American Religious History Series started in February and has had a strong following with numerous patrons at Central attending each. We are thankful to the talented scholars and presenters who generously shared their passionate work at Central. Black Theology: The Life and Work of James Cone, was the first in the series presented by Professor Curt Cadorette of the University of Rochester. He related the work of James Cone with his own work with indigenous and persecuted populations in Peru where he spent more than 20 years as a Catholic Priest. The vital social role of the Black Church in America and its importance in the work of Cone was highlighted in the discussion with patrons.

  The second lecture, with professor Dara Delgado from Roberts Wesleyan, was titled: Where Are All the Women? (Re)Discovering the Lost Voices of Black Women Religious Leaders of Douglass’s City. Professor Delgado told the story of early Black Religious women in Rochester and the important and often unsung and rarely documented role they played in the formation of the early religious community in the United States.

  Black Liberation and the Sin of Slavery, the third lecture was presented by Cona Marshall, a post-doctoral fellow at the Frederick Douglass Institute at the University of Rochester. Professor Marshall used video excerpts from the new film Harriet to relate the often-conflicting biblical messages of transcendence and obedience and the spiritual-political role of the Black pastor in the struggle for freedom in the American South during slavery. Patrons also commented on their appreciation for the new AV and lighting system in Kusler-Cox Auditorium, which aided greatly in the presentation.

  The fourth lecture in the series, given by Professor William Graf from Saint John Fisher College, was Racism in Catholic Church in 19th Century: A Case Study. Professor Graf used the life of Augustus Tolton (1854-1897), the first African American Catholic priest in the United States, to examine the conflicts between the life of faith and the institution of slavery and persecution in the United States. Tolton's example of faith and community was astoundingly heroic and numerous new books on his life have been recently published and are being added to Central’s religion collection. A lively audience discussion followed the talk.

  There will be a fifth and final lecture, Five Faces of the African American Religious Experience: Richard Allen, Martin Luther King, Jr., Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Samuel DeWitt Proctor, and Malcolm X, given by Professor Marvin A. McMickle, the Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

- Andrew Coyle in the Arts and Literature Division and Brandon Fess in the Local History Division plan on continuing the series next year in collaboration with religion departments from Rochester universities, local churches and the African American community.

*Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting*
The Business Insight Center (BIC) received a report from consultant Jennifer Sertl, who spent several weeks talking with members of the local business community, with staff, and with trustees regarding the future directions of the Business Insight Center. The report will be discussed at the Board meeting and copies made available to interested trustees. The next step in re-imagining the fourth floor is working with architect Kelly Jahn to determine the physical layout of the floor.

Meetings
- Jennifer Byrnes attended the Downtown Partnership Roundtable meeting at the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship.
- Byrnes met with two staff members of ESL Federal Credit Union, Keith Cleary and Robert Jackson, about how the Business Insight Center (BIC) can assist them and their clients.
- Byrnes has weekly meetings regarding SourceLink.
- Byrnes, Kate Meddaugh and Lily Anthony toured the Fab Lab at NextCorps and met with marketing director Holly Barrett. As a result, Byrnes and Meddaugh will be presenting at one of their Lunch and Learns on March 18 and will be recording podcasts for the ROCStarts website (https://rocstarts.com).

Consulting
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 16 in person, 13 by email, 1 by mail, 5 by phone.
- Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 2
- Webpage views: 55
- 3D Printer: 4
- Hours of in-depth market research: 50
- Database Usage – (removed from narrative)
  - InnovationQ: 27 users, 318 searches.
  - MarketScope Advisor: 52 page views.
  - ValueLine: Logins: 169; Searches: 3,985; Downloads: 888.
  - VentureSource: 11 searches.

Programs
BIC will be participating in the upcoming ROC Startup Weekend, June 5-7. This immersive program connects people who are driven to build something new. Rich and diverse talent is a Techstars Startup Weekend staple. Participants discover where they are on the Entrepreneur's Journey and how to find local resources. They learn what it really takes to start a company in a way that no book, panel, speaker, or blog post can. Startup Weekend is designed to get businesses going fast. Local Organizers set up the ideal environment for participants to be successful and learn as much as possible in just 54 hours. For more information: https://startupweekend.org.

Outreach
- Byrnes held office hours at RIT’s Venture Creations. She met with three businesses.
- Meddaugh met with eight students at the RIT Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to discuss intellectual property. Meddaugh now has regular office hours at the Simone Center once every two weeks for three hours.

Training
- Byrnes attended the Public Library Association’s annual conference in Nashville. She learned about novel workforce development programs. Byrnes met with a faculty member of the University of Washington’s iSchool. As a result, Meddaugh will be a guest lecturer for their online MLS program.
- Kate Meddaugh and Lily Anthony participated in a webinar and learned how Valueline is used for individual stocks, how investors can better hone their assists, and what stocks are the top pick for that day. Meddaugh attended the class taught by Anthony Testa at the Simone Center about how to evaluate your potential market, who your customers are, the amount of your company budget that goes into marketing and geographical constraints that business owners should consider.
Anecdotes
Byrnes received this message from a satisfied customer:

“Hello again (after four months). I wanted to let you know that I received (and accepted) a job offer from RIT recently. The data you compiled in October was at the core of my extra credit work during the interviewing phase. It was widely appreciated. I wanted to close the loop and let you know that your response made a significant difference to my career...The professionalism and kindness I experienced during my limited interaction makes me strongly feel that you guys are definitely making an impact!”

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Outreach/Community Contacts
Tonia Burton hosted a meeting with Sara Scott (City of Rochester Department of Youth & Recreation), Cara Rager (WXXI), and Hali Radecker (Monroe Youth Bureau) to discuss nature programming. Scott has been interested in creating nature backpacks and wanted to talk to people about making the backpacks and getting them in the library. To promote the backpacks, the group will create a Nature Challenge and offer pop-up programs at area parks. The group discussed what each event would entail and established we could do six family events at six different parks; the parks will be split between city and county locations. Each event will feature similar activities like Guided Nature Walks and promote the Nature Challenge. Anne Eichas, Deputy Commissioner of Monroe County Department of Human Services; was brought into the conversation and she will be looking into a Nature Challenge night at the zoo for participants.

Programs
• Dr. Shauna Paradine from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Rochester visited our Girl Scouts and discussed her education and career. Dr. Paradine is a former Girl Scout and organic chemistry professor whose expertise is in medicinal chemistry. The Girl Scouts did an experiment to see how the fat molecules in whole milk react when dish soap is added. Girl Scouts are also preparing for two cookie booth sales in the coming weeks by practicing customer service scenarios, cash handling, and marketing strategies.

• Mad Science of Western NY visited the Children’s Center over February Break to experiment with states of matter. Kids learned how molecules bond during solid, liquid, and gaseous states, as well as, how sometimes they skip from solid directly to gas as seem in dry ice sublimation.

• Children got to make their own Frosty the Snowman over February Break as the ladies from Created by Us Pottery showed them the techniques of rolling clay, seaming with water, and scraping designs. Kids got to take home their creations to air dry.
RPL Director’s Report – March 2020 (Continued)

• A class of high school students with special needs and their aides returned for a tour of the Rundel Building and another themed storytime to complement their classroom unit on Space. The students created the Solar System with inflatable planets and rotated around the Sun as well as took moon phase flip books to assemble in the classroom.

Raising a Reader
• Raising A Reader (RAR) is now serving 785 families.
• The program has continued at the following eleven sites: ABC Head Start Joseph, ABC Head Start North St, ABC Head Start Hart St, Ibero, Hillside Southwest, Hillside Peter Castle, Rochester Childfirst Network at Center City, Volunteers of America, School #10, School #2, and ABC Home Visiting.
• The red bag rotation has also begun at School #57.
• RAR team members including Alex Haehn (Wheatley), Jen Nesbitt (Sully), Sarah Ngo (Douglass), Jasmine Santiago (Lincoln), and Nancy Cholewa (Arnett) continue visiting RAR classrooms on a weekly basis to support the bag rotation and offer early literacy storytime programs to the children and teachers.
• Lauren Seaver (Central) continued site visits to ABC Hart Street and Volunteers of America this month but left the position at the end of February. Volunteers of America and Hart St. will continue the red bag rotation and classroom visits can resume once a replacement for Seaver’s position is hired. Hart St. teachers not already rotating their classroom’s bags were given instructions on how to complete the red bag rotation process by Seaver.
• Jessica Smith (Lyell) is the contact working with School #57. She is not currently making weekly visits, but the red bags are being rotated by the teachers. Smith will be visiting School #57 on a regular (approximately monthly) basis for Family Engagement events.
• At Volunteers of America, a teacher shared with Seaver that one of their students is leading RAR storytimes during playtime. The child shares books, rhymes, and the red bag song all learned during RAR classroom visits.
• Cholewa (Arnett) had this anecdote to share about her regular site visits to Hillside Southwest: “My non-verbal student at SW has been making good progress with his speech and just last week, he not only sang the red bag song with us, but he threw up his hands and shouted ‘Read, Read’ when we got to that part of the song.”
• In addition, this month Seaver attended an awards event at School #57 to share information about RAR with families, and Pat Connor (RPL) and Jessica Smith (Lyell) attended a Black History event for School #57 to share early literacy information for RAR.

Anecdotes
An adult patron with her children came to the Children’s Center looking for children’s books that would help her re-learn to read, because she had had a stroke. Alla suggested the VoxBooks (books that talk) and the
WonderBook books that allow the patron to listen to the book while looking at the words. She was so excited that we had these types of books and checked out a large handful of them.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

New Borrowers: 128
RRLC Access cards: 3
Notarial Acts: 168
Computer Classes: 12 (65 people attended)

Anecdotes
Melisa Miranda was working with a patron who had overdue fines on several family library cards. The patron is in a tight financial spot and couldn’t afford to pay the fines; she was embarrassed and didn’t want to talk to a manager. Miranda took the initiative to talk to Cunningham about the patron and the fines. Cunningham cleared them and Miranda was able to tell the patron that she and her children were free to check out items again.

Information Staff
The City is requiring contract drivers to log hours through a computer, not a paper form as before. The City Department of Compliance asked the Library to offer computer help to its contract truck drivers, many non-computer users. DiNitto went to three meetings of contract truck drivers to inform them of free computer help and training through the Central Library.

Local History & Genealogy Division, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs
The Local History & Genealogy Division introduced a new lecture series this month in partnership with the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery. This inaugural session of *Mourning in the Morning* featured Dennis Carr speaking to an impressive turnout of 42 attendees on the subject of “The Arrest and Trial of Susan B. Anthony: Strategy, Tactics and the Struggle for the Vote.”

Community Outreach/Meetings

- Ridarsky collaborated with Ryan Hughes, the Rochester Regional Library Council’s Digital Initiatives Librarian, to re-develop the [www.RocSuffrage.org](http://www.RocSuffrage.org) website that was established in 2017. The site has been rebranded as the City’s official website for Rochester’s 2020 celebration of the centennial of the 19th amendment, which recognized U.S women’s right to vote, and Susan B. Anthony’s birthday. In addition, Ridarsky provided support to the City Communications Department for Mayor Lovely A. Warren’s January 16 press conference, at which she announced the City’s slate of 2020 woman suffrage commemorative events.
- The latest issue of the *Rochester History* journal was distributed to subscribers in mid-February. It features an article by *Democrat & Chronicle* reporter Justin Murphy entitled “Racial Segregation in Rochester Schools, 1818–1856.” Also in January, Ridarsky, who is journal editor, met with Bruce Austin, Director of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Press, and Tamar Carroll, Chair of RIT’s Department of History, to discuss a possible partnership between RIT, the library, and the Office of the City Historian that would expand the *Rochester History* journal’s reach while reducing the burden production of the journal places on library staff. Austin and Carroll will present the proposal to the dean of RIT’s College of Liberal Arts for in February; contract negotiations are expected to begin soon thereafter.
- Emily Morry assisted staff from three different media outlets with stories and programs. She was interviewed by freelance writer Sierra Guardiola of *Finger Lakes Magazine* about the history and significance of the Times Square Building in Rochester; the article’s publication date is to be determined.
Morry assisted Maureen McGuire of WROC-TV identify source material for a story on women in the Rochester Police Department. Derrick Lucas of JAZZ 90.1 FM radio also sought Morry’s assistance in preparing for a lecture on the history of jazz in Rochester, having read Morry’s four-part series on the topic on the division’s LocalHistoryRocs! blog.

- Ridarsky collaborated with Robert J. Benz, co-founder of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and David Anderson of the Rochester-Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission to facilitate the transfer of a bust and three paintings of Rochester’s first African American businessman, Austin Steward, from the Rochester Riverside Hotel to the library. The items had been on display in the hotel, which sits on the site of Stewart’s grocery and meat market, for many years, but the hotel is scheduled to be demolished this year. The bust is currently on display on the 2nd floor of the Rundel Memorial Building; the paintings are in storage until we can identify an appropriate space for them to be displayed.

Special Collections
- The division accepted one new special collection this month, a set of thirty-three 8 x 10 canvas-backed photographs documenting Berger Bros. Electric Motors, a local company. The photographs, which include exterior and interior views, as well as employees at work in office and warehouse areas, were taken October 1930 at the plant at 1346 University Avenue, where the company was based between 1928 and 1938.
- Brandon Fess completed finding-aids for six collections in January: the Lynn Varricchio Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS records; the Children’s Playground League records; the Jarvis E. Smith papers (detailing the business and activities of a 19th-century pharmacist in Clyde, New York, over a 30-year period); the Collection of Lantern Slides of Early Rochester Maps (dating from the early 19th century into the 1920s); the City Manager’s Committee on Housing records; and the Citizen’s City Planning and Housing Council records. The last two collections shed light on Rochester’s halting attempts to voluntarily improve city housing stock in the period before the establishment of the Rochester Housing Authority, between 1938 and 1945. Because these appear to be government records, Ridarsky will confer with the City’s Records Management Officer on their disposition.
- Volunteer Ciara Arnold completed her inventory of previously non-inventoried historic newspapers and organized them into boxes. Intern Dakota Spinner inventoried and organized 10 boxes of clipping files that were part of a donation from the Rochester Business Journal.

Digital Projects, Rochester Voices
Michelle Finn and educational consultant Andrea Geglia wrapped up the Erie Canal for the Classroom project, funded the Erie Canalways National Heritage Corridor. Geglia developed a suite of 13 classroom lessons (inquiries, activities, and assessments) and two instructional guides on resources and teaching strategies, all aligned with the New York’s fourth-grade Social Studies standards. Finn curated and uploaded 60 primary sources to a newly created Erie Canal topic section on www.RochesterVoices.org. The lessons and more than 40 additional primary source materials will be uploaded to the site in coming weeks.

Social Media
Staff from the Local History and Genealogy Division contributed content for 16 social media posts in January: 4 on Twitter, 6 on Facebook, 3 Facebook Events, and 3 blog entries on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. These posts reached 10,446 people: 6,050 on Facebook, 1,987 on Twitter, and 2,409 on our blog; 189 people engaged with our posts on Facebook, 15 on Twitter, and 107 on our blog. Morry contributed an article on the history of Edgerton Park called “Ch-Ch-Changes: From a Prison to a Park”; Substitute Librarian Christopher Brennan contributed an entry called “‘A Good Guy?’: The Life and Death of ‘Sammy G’ Gingello (October 24, 1939–April 23, 1978)”; and PT Clerk III Hope Christansen contributed another installment of “What’s New in Local History and Genealogy? (LHGD Newsletter. Vol. 1, No. 5).
Docents from the Rochester Genealogical Society contributed 21 hours of service to the division and assisted 13 patrons in January. In addition, we were aided by five unaffiliated volunteers (Kevin Allen – 4 hours; Ciara Arnold – 4.5 hours; Karen Knoll – 3.5 hours; Noeme Liestman – 3.5 hours; and Ira Srole – 29.25 hours) and one intern from the Rochester Rehabilitation Employment Connection (Dakota Spinner – 90 hours). In all, volunteers contributed 155.75 hours.

**Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting**

- **Hoopla:** 414 patrons used the service during February with 36 new users registering and 86 patrons using all seven circs (21%). Average cost was $2.11/item.
  - Circulations: 1,438
    - Movies/TV – 329
    - Audiobook - 646
    - Music – 95
    - eBooks – 271
    - Comics – 97
- RMC added 10 more Mi-Fi units for circulation due to high demand; even adding these 10 new units, there are still 15 outstanding holds on them. The original 10 units can be picked up only at Central, but the new 10 units can be requested by and shipped to any MCLS library.

**Anecdotes**

A patron came in with her husband asking about good audiobooks. She told me she had just been diagnosed with dementia (she was probably only in her fifties) and was unable to read print books anymore—the words jumbled together for her. Listening to books had become her way of reading. She wasn't interested in learning about digital formats—she thought it would be too confusing to learn how to operate. She was very happy with our large selection of books on CD and checked out about five altogether.

**Sciences and History, Darlene Richards reporting**

**Meetings**

Sarah Bishopp Velez met with Yvette Conyers and Sarah Miner, assistant professors at St. John Fisher’s Wegmans School of Nursing, to discuss the possibility of having the nursing students gain community experience at Health Central. The students would potentially offer free health screenings and basic health education classes for patrons as part of their coursework. Everyone agreed that this was a feasible partnership. Nothing has been confirmed yet, but the students may start in September.

**Programs**

- Sarah Bishopp Vélez gave a brief tour of Health Central on the third floor following Dr. Theresa Green’s Tuesday Topics presentation on Health Care in America. Bishopp Vélez went over some of the health information and services that Health Central provides to the community. This was highly productive; it has led, so far, to two additional community contacts, including one request to market Health Central at a community dinner later this year. A big thanks to Susan Lusignan and FFRPL for helping to promote Health Central!
- Michelle Weiler, an Eat Smart Nutrition Educator from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, presented Shake the Salt Habit a talk on reducing sodium in our diet

**Got Health**

- Elizabeth McKinley, a Nurse Practitioner at Strong Memorial Hospital, gave a great and easy-to-understand presentation on congestive heart failure. She showed images of what happens to the body when someone
has congestive heart failure and went over the many methods to manage it. A total of seven people attended in-person, and 21 people have viewed the Facebook live stream recording as of February 28th.

- Jocelyn Basley, Community Grants Manager at the United Way of Greater Rochester, put on a well-attended program. 55 participants gained insights into the world of grants from both the grantee and grantor perspectives. There were opportunities at the end of the program for networking. It was an interactive session for those new to grant writing.

Health Central

LROC Stats

- Human Services Cases - 43
- Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County (VLSP) - 7

- The Monroe County Health Department conducted free RAPID testing for sexually transmitted infections. Two people were tested.
- The Peer Support Specialists from Catholic Charities started their walk-in hours at the library this month. This is a brand new service being offered. They offer help to those struggling with addiction by sharing their own recovery experiences and connecting people to addiction/recovery services in the community. They talked to a total of five people for their first two days here at the library.
- The Open Enrollment for Health Insurance period is closed; however, there will still be a health navigator onsite from Legal Assistance of Western New York on the second Wednesday of the month from March to October from 3:00-6:00 pm to assist patrons in navigating health insurance inquiries on the Affordable Care Act and the New York State of Health Marketplace.

- Health Care Navigators at Central and Branches: Total open enrollment period for LAW New York:
  - Wheatley - 12 enrollments
  - Central - 6 enrollments and one plan selection
  - Sully - 2 enrollments
  - Maplewood - 2 enrollments, even though it was not an official site this year
  - Lyell - 1 enrollment
  - Charlotte - 1
  - Arnett - 0
  - Lincoln - 0

- Library Assistant Florence Morris has continued to coordinate the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Facilitated Self Assistance (FSA) Tax Assistance Program with our staff handling those appointments and referrals to CASH. The New York State tax forms are finally in. Morris has received several positive comments from patrons indicating that they are happy that the NYS DTF FSA program is back at Central. Since their first day on February 5, NYS Tax Assistance has seen 93 clients and has successfully prepared 64 tax returns. Many clients are walk-ins that either do not qualify for the CASH program or do not wish to wait for them. There has been collaboration between CASH staff and NYS preparers with clients who did not have last year’s returns (prepared by CASH). NYS DTF FSA is happy with the numbers and will use these statistics to hopefully supply more laptops so more patrons can be served. This is the sixth year of this partnership.

Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Near daily guerrilla programming is taking place in both the lab and the teen area proper.
- Dennis Williams reached out to Pedro Nunez from the security staff, and asked if he’d be interested in helping to run a dungeons and dragons club on Saturdays. The program has been doing very well, and there are a handful of teens that are super dedicated to it now.
• Each month Teen Central hosts a visit from the ARC of Monroe County during closed time. This month there were 14 special needs young adults. They love playing the video game consoles and drawing.
• Williams worked with ABC to host a sexual ed training course in the teen proper. It was very well attended and informative for the teens.
• Jeff Bostic has been running very successful photography and videography classes on Saturdays.
• The lab has been extremely busy this month. More and more students who have passed the studio certification course are looking for time in the studio. We have started offering studio time even during hours when the lab is closed.
• Here are 2 examples of finished productions by teens:

https://soundcloud.com/diorlife/die-a-rockstar-prod-ross
https://youtu.be/eAtww4DI5zQ

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of Williams and Bostic working one-on-one with the teens to help them realize their dreams.

Outreach/Community Contacts
• Teen Central is now receiving 40 snacks a day from Foodlink. There is a lot of paperwork to be filed. The children’s centre, the teen center and the patron services manager have all been working together to make this endeavor a success, because we all realize feeding hungry kids is critical.
• Williams met with Vertus High School. He provided them a guided tour of the teen area and lab space. We will begin formal education classes this spring: both self-directed and instructor led credit bearing assignments that students can complete to help them finish their HS diploma.
• Antoine McDonald attended the Pillars of Hope mentoring program on February 12 at the Walter Cooper School #10

ImagineYOU – Digital Media Lab
388 Visitors
ImagineYOU had a lot of individual use this month. Teens used the lab for album covers, youtube wallpapers, and youtube videos.

Monthly Contest
Saun won this month’s contest. Teens had to use the saber plug-in for a video effect. Check out our entrants with this link. https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/ElZcPGe5TtJGuTpjukiXV2kJBASyfYHz_P-x99RsbsUIUQ?e=nwGogL

**Studio**
The studio had a good certification class this month. Josh added six interested teens.

**Saturday Classes**
There were two excellent photoshop classes this month. The first class taught people how to make themselves look better. The second class focused on photoshop compositions. Check out the eye bag removal in these pictures as well as the cheetah composition.

**Anecdotes**
Reggie is a young African American male who attended All City High School and hated it. He graduated as soon as he could using his intelligence to shave time off his mandatory course work. Reggie then attempted college. With little assistance sought, he ended up paying out a lot of money. His view on college was that it is just too expensive. We worked with him over several weeks to connect him with great resources like RIT’s Liberty program, that much like MCC’s program, sits down with students one-on-one and will help them fill out not only their federal financial aid forms, but apply for the many grants and scholarships that are available. It looks like Reggie is now considering continuing his higher education in an affordable way.

**Branch Library Updates**
*Joan Lee, Area Coordinator reporting*

**Safe To Be Smart Program, Derrick Coley reporting**

**Arnett Site**
- Shetora Banks collaborated with FiberArts team for postcard project with teens. The students made fabric collages on postcards.
- For Valentines Day Ban Banks facilitated a discussion about the various types of love: Eros, Ludus, Storge,Pragma, Mania, and Agape with the teens. The teens shared the types of love they receive and give to their loved ones and friends.
- During Black History month Banks had the teens introduce an African American person of interest. The teens then filled in details about the famous persons life and achievements.
Bostick hosted a Mix and Mingle for Valentine’s Day with games and pizza. She facilitated a Valentine craft program for youth using a variety of items to create with.

The STEM program involved basic coding for girls using in-house computers.

Bostick had the teens research some female African-American heroes and print out a picture and write a brief comment about that hero.

**Maplewood Site**

- Yaliza Frank had the youth focus on STEM activities incorporated with Black History month. The youth created color blocks with a poem about color using the five senses. The color blocks were put on display shelving in the teens pace for all to see.
- Frank facilitated a crime scene investigation using her desk in the teen space. The teens had to solve the crime by dusting for fingerprints and comparing handwriting on a note with Maplewood staff-persons. In part two of the investigation the youth created fake blood to explore blood spatter patterns and discussed the different patterns. Frank had the youth explore career paths in forensics and criminal justice fields.
- Frank facilitated “Telling A Fairy Tale Day” and the teens had to pick an elementary aged child in the branch and read them a story.
- Frank chaperoned a fieldtrip to the Memorial Art Gallery with Mrs. Delores Jackson Radney as docent.

**Lincoln Site**

- Vera Haygood reviewed Awareness themes with teens for February. The topics were: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, African Heritage and Health Week and Give Kids a Smile Day. Haygood gave all the teen participants extra computer time. Haygood recognizes Rochester City School District high school students with gift cards and encouragement.
- Haygood celebrated Black History month with teens by showing African-American historical movies each week with snacks.

**Sully Site**

- George Carter continues to facilitate a book group that reads books the Mayor of Rochester suggests. The current book is Year of Yes by Shonda Rhimes. Carter encourages the teen group to come in together and read the book each week. Carter said. the students are encouraging each other to read and make comments during discussion time.
- Carter facilitated a Black History Month Movie Day with teens. The teens watched the Harriet Tubman movie and shared refreshments. Afterward, Carter led a discussion about the life of Harriet Tubman. For example, Harriet was a former slave that became the conductor of the Underground railroad, and Harriet also lived in nearby Auburn, New York about 45 minutes away from Rochester, New York.

**Teen Central Site**

- John Hylton collaborated with barber Dwain Parker to facilitate, “Barbershop Talk” weekly for teens. The teens get haircuts and learn about the career of barbering. Parker shared his experience at the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC) which has led him to become a skilled barber in a short period of time.
- Hylton facilitated a Ping Pong tournament with prizes for newer teens visiting TeenCentral.
- Hylton taught interested teens the basics of playing chess.
- Lydia Williams facilitated a female only discussion group called, “Girl Talk.” The girls talked about life, boyfriends and careers.

**Branch Administration, Pat Connor reporting**

**Community Outreach**

- Patricia Connor represented the Rochester Public Library at several community and school events during the month of February. The first was the Hub City Motor Club Community Blood Drive at the Flint Street R-
Connor distributed library information and registered children for library cards.

- Kim Whittemore and Karen Duff from the Charlotte Branch joined Connor on a very cold Saturday afternoon along the shores of Lake Ontario for the Lakeside Winter Celebration. The event was held in a heated tent—but the electricity went out partway through the event. They spoke with several people about library services and the always popular Empire Pass program.
- World Read Aloud Day happens annually during the first week of February. Connor was invited by former Rochester Public Library employee, Rosa Diaz, to read to third-grade students at the Rochester City School District’s RISE School #106. Connor shared *Hosea Plays On* by Kathleen Blasi. This recently published picture biography is about Hosea Taylor who was a well-known Rochester musician and community member. The students also enjoyed the always popular *Book with No Pictures* by B.J. Novak.
- Connor returned to the Universal Pre-K class at Rochester City School District School #16 to distribute library cards to several new library users. (Education & Engagement)

**Arnett Branch, Bruce-Tehan reporting**

**Programs**

- The Take-Your-Child-to-the-Library Day was very successful and well attended. There were over 40 patrons who participated during the day and 20 patrons completed enough activities to earn a BINGO and collect a prize. Seven teens participated, and two of them did enough activities to achieve a BLACKOUT BINGO and earn a second prize. All in all it was a super fun day and the participation was excellent.
- During the school break week there was a focus on food. There were 4 programs that week, two were food based, *Healthy Snacking with the Storybook Cook* and a *Nacho Bar* on STEAM Thursday. There was a trial run with a Breakout Box, and Fabric Arts of Rochester made fabric postcards with patrons. The last program was organized and run by Shetora Banks, our Safe To Be Smart person.
- A second Arnett concert by the Nate Rawls Community Jazz Band also included an author visit. The author, Kathleen Blasi, has written a children’s book about a recently passed local musician Hosea Taylor. The book proved to be very popular with the 80 people in attendance many of whom were friends with Hosea. In her blog, Blasi described the event this way:

  “Last week, I had a library experience that could prove to be once-in-a-lifetime. Thanks to Arnett Librarian Bruce Tehan, John DeMott, and the Nate Rawls Band, I got to read *Hosea Plays On* at Arnett Branch Library—to a room full of readers, many of whom knew Hosea Taylor. They shared stories of Hosea. There was music, including some of the tunes Hosea loved, a delectable spread of food, and again...pure joy, though mixed with the sadness of the reason we were there—Hosea Taylor is no longer with us. But in many ways, he is. He was and is special to our community. And our community is special, thanks in no small part to his gift for connecting with people. And now, he has given this gift of connection to me. In essence, it might have seemed that my book brought that group together—but we know who was really responsible, don’t we?”
Local black business owners and potential business owners came together to showcase items and programs their businesses offer for the benefit of everyone in the community at an event called the Ujamaa Marketplace. The name Ujamaa comes from the seven principles of Kwanzaa meaning to build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together. The event was held on a Saturday and 100 attended.

Community Outreach/Meetings
Arnett conducted a lot of outreach during February with Cholewa and RPL Outreach Librarian Pat Connor’s work being particularly remarkable. Connor read stories to Pre-K kids at School #16. The kids loved the stories so much they wanted their own library cards. Of course, Connor kindly made the extra trips to the school to ensure the kids received their cards.

Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs
- Community groups used the meeting room in February, including The Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Association, and the Girl Scouts. Most interesting, however, was the room booking by the Rochester & Genesee Valley Area Labor Federation. The group was having a program honoring labor activist Ida Braiman who is buried in the Britton Road Cemetery [Waad Hakolel Jewish Cemetery], a mere block and half from the library! Ida Braiman was a Rochester seamstress who was shot to death by a factory owner while she was participating in a strike in 1913. Her murder attracted statewide attention to the cause of the Rochester garment workers, as well as garnering support for the strikers from suffragist organizations. The Labor Federation met at the cemetery for a graveside commemoration, and then reconvened in the Charlotte Branch meeting room for further discussion. They drew a decently-sized group of about 20 participants, and the energy level was high. All this information about Ms. Braiman was completely new to library staff, and they plan to ask the labor historian at the Federation to do a program about Ms. Braiman’s life and death at some point.

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs
- WXXI: Cara Rager brought out string, card stock, and small toys to create zip lines.
- Douglass is hosting Nazareth College Speech Pathology students with the help of Dr. Lisa Hiley. These students interact and assist the children with our STEM activities.
- National Pokemon Day: Ngo and literacy aide Isaac Lewis planned a movie, crafts, scavenger hunt, and a guessing game for kids to participate in for this fun event.
• The first Saturday in February is Take-Your-Child-to-the-Library Day. Stahovic-Barnes put out library related coloring pages and a display of books about visiting the library and the love of reading. She also had bookmarks ready for a Make & Take project.

• The Make & Take for February were valentines. Stahovic-Barnes put out colored paper, glue, scissors, markers and valentine stickers so kids could make something for Valentine’s Day. Many spent time making multiple cards for teachers and classmates. There were also valentine coloring pages with different shaped hearts.

**Anecdotes**

Several of our patrons home school their children, and one (Suzanne) runs a home school group. Her students recently voted to study US government as their next unit. Clarke suggested they contact the Appellate Division Law Library for a tour. Suzanne stopped Clarke in Abundance Co-Op because she was so excited about her interaction with the law library – not only are they getting a tour of the library with a law librarian, court will be in session so they can observe. She thanked Clarke for making sure her family and her students have great experiences with the library.

**Other**

• Ngo is still actively working with the Douglass R-Center to bring kids over daily to the library to do homework, play on technology, color, and borrow books.
  o Total Library Users for our Kid’s Space: 798
  o Total Number for Homework Help: 82
  o Total Number of Rec Participation: 79
  o Total Number of iPad users: 77
  o Total Number of Laptop Use: 36

• This school year, Ngo is visiting five classrooms at Rochester Childfirst Network weekly.

• RCN Open House: Ngo was invited to host a table at Rochester Childfirst Network’s Open House. Ngo took flyers, library cards, promoted library services, and passed out pencils and stickers.

• Raising a Reader: Ngo visited ABC Joseph and Rochester Childfirst Network weekly for a combined total of five times in February.

• RISE School: Ngo went to The Rise School three times for her preschool storytime visits.

**Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting**

**Programs:**

February was a busy month for the children at the Lincoln library, the busiest week being February break. There were multiple activities going on for the kids, but the most popular were the Origami Hearts craft activity, an Anansi themed scavenger hunt around the children’s area, and an
impromptu obstacle course created by our literacy aides. Towards the end of the week, many of the children were starting to spend too much time together and needed to let off a little steam. Our literacy aides, Jevon Phillips and Cormel Sirmons, took leftover activity items from Roc Play and worked with the kids to invent their very own obstacle course/game in the meeting room. It was a huge hit and the kids still ask about playing again soon. We look forward to bringing it out again for spring break in April.

**Toy Library**

- February numbers were great with over 800 people visiting. Sarah Lehman’s outreach to Early Childhood Direction Center daycare directors was effective and there were three field-trip visits as a result. All three came from the Monroe Community College childcare center.
- Preschool science programming continued and patrons visited weekly to participate. The topics were magnets, hibernation, and the five senses.
- Jasmine Santiago and Lehman coordinated a Saturday program around Valentine's Day. Lehman made red homemade play dough that was used in a pretend bakery. It was wonderful to have the kids play with this sensory material atop tile.
- The big push was to accession 50 toys before the end of the month. Tashara Martinez worked on the ones that will be viewable on CARL while Lehman pushed ahead with recent donations. They surpassed their goal entering 72 new toys into the system. Patrons were thrilled to see so many new items out on the shelves.

**Anecdotes/Other**

David Pacific from the Joseph Ave Arts and Cultural Alliance secured 40 tickets to attend a story time with musical accompaniment at the Strong Museum (along with admission to the museum for that day). The tickets were given to patrons.

**Lyell Branch, Shamika Fusco reporting**

**Programs**

- Tail Waggin’ Tutors always brings a smile to everyone’s faces. Duchess changed things a bit and listened to a patron read to her from the computer instead of the usual book. She loved that!
- As part of the Lyell Branch Black History Month celebration, they had a visiting artist from the Black Story League of Rochester come and share traditional stories and songs that have been passed down throughout the years.
- This month the girls of the Zeta Youth Group (Pearlettes) Book Club are reading *I am Enough* by Grace Byers. They are doing crafts, literary activities and discussions around it. They meet at the library every other month to focus on literature, social action, community service and sisterhood.
• The older girls, Zeta Youth (Amicettes/Archonettes) Book Club, are starting to read *Girl’s Resist: A Guide to Activism, Leadership and Starting a Revolution*. They are also working on community service projects, literary discussion, college applications, and fundraising projects.

Adult Programs
• Monroe County Health Department gave free Narcan training as well as Hepatitis vaccinations, flu shots, and STI screenings. There were not many participants but 80% of Lyell staff were Narcan trained. They are willing to come back in the future to provide screenings and trainings.
• *Eyes on the Prize* film screening: there were two separate screenings along with a very meaningful discussion regarding race today vs. then. Despite the low attendance, it was a powerful and important discussion and program.
• Black History Month Reading Challenge: Patrons were challenged to read a book with an African American theme written by a prominent African-American author. They were also asked to write a quick review for the chance to win a special prize! The challenge was promoted on the library’s Facebook page to encourage further participation. Book discussion to be held at the end of the month.
• Learn How to Cook Traditional Healthy Dishes & Healthy Snacks Session One: Kaderia, Community Nutrition Educator, from Foodlink, Inc. made a delicious hummus that everyone enjoyed, especially following a lesson on dietary fats found in fast foods. These one-hour programs included a 30-minute mini lesson followed by a 30-minute food demo.
• There was a mixture of several different types of fruits and veggies and great participation in this month’s Produce Distribution. Patrons coming for produce had a choice of carrots, asparagus, bananas, apples, oranges, cilantro, Brussel sprouts, string beans, cherry tomatoes, eggplant, spaghetti squash, acorn squash, cukes, limes, parsnips, and bread products.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings
Fusco attended the Cameron Street Ministries Teen Open House. There were lots of kids and lots to do. She created a positive AFROmation vision board which encouraged kids to add something positive about Black History or some positive thought or expression about African Americans.

Anecdotes/Other
• One young patron, who prefers to read in Spanish, requested more Spanish language books. Fusco spent some time with her looking over the English language books and asked her to help compile a list
of popular titles that she would love to read in Spanish. She was amazed that Fusco was so interested in her thoughts and opinions.

**Maplewood Branch, Johanna Buran reporting**

**Programs**

- The Connect 4 Tournament continues to have success. Patrons continue to be interested even after nine straight tournaments. The Teen Tournament was not held due to lack of teens over their February break. There has been an increase in chess being played at the library and if interest continues, staff may start a chess tournament or create learning sessions to try and involve more youth.
- Genshiken Club which is an anime and manga club continues to be a very well attended event. The club continues work on learning Japanese, and watch anime which was Ouran High School Host Club for the month of February.
- The month-ending carnival was the by far the greatest program held in February. Children created different carnival games during crafting sessions. The second game making session started as game making but ended up becoming a very large painting session. Our young friends created lots of beautiful and messy artwork. Ahe carnival, the games could be played using tickets that patrons earned by attending the library and exhibiting good behavior throughout the month.

**Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg reporting**

**Programs**
• The Womba Africa program in February was attended by 106 people, a significant increase from the 40 people who attended in January. The library partnered with the Monroe Family YMCA allowing this program to be offered to a larger part of the community. There were people waiting an hour before it started just to get a good spot! Even larger branches do not have a space large enough to fit this number of people comfortably, so having a great working relationship with the Y was crucial in bringing the group and program to this part of the city.

• One week of Breakerspace was skipped this month for the Womba Africa visit, but there was still good participation from past and new families (21 total in attendance). The highlight of Breakerspace in February was taking apart a clock radio. Turns out a small clock radio has more circuits and dials than any other piece of equipment than we’ve seen so far.

• Computer Tutor continues to be a popular program, booked weeks in advance. This one-on-one computer class is presented twice weekly by appointment.

• Henna Rising was very successful. In spite of the bad weather, five people came in to get beautiful complimentary henna tattoos. This artist will be returning in the summer.

Anecdotes/Other

• Scheg was granted a $100 gift card from Wegman’s to purchase healthy, story-themed food for a Beginning Reader Book Club “Read & Eat” program. The grant request was for $250 to run the program for a full year, but $100 will support it through the summer months. As a member of the MCLS Children’s Librarians’ beginning reader book review team, Scheg was inspired to start up a new program at Monroe to include this age and reading level.

• For the month of February Monroe’s Food Truck gave out 455 items. They have just started receiving bread and fruits/vegetables from the Flower City Pickers. As we get into the growing season, they will hopefully be getting more fruits and vegetables that don’t require refrigeration. So far, this new addition has been a big hit with the patrons that use the Food Truck.

• In February, three Digital Literacy Volunteers started at Monroe.

_Sully Branch, Marie Heeks-Heinlien reporting_
Programs

- This month the branch hosted the Rochester Education Foundation’s College Connect Program that brought in students from the University of Rochester to talk to teens and answer questions they might have about college. Jacob Bigelow had hosted this program before at the Lincoln Branch and was excited to get it back for Sully. Teens were able to have a conversation with current college students and asked many excellent questions. Several teens who were on the fence about college remarked that college did not seem quite so unobtainable now that they knew there were scholarships available for them. A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Fest is in the planning stages.

- Bigelow’s Black History Month Display was a huge success. Bigelow has conducted his own research into a variety of Rochesterians for Black History Month to share interesting information with our patrons. Several patrons asked for copies of the information to share with their churches and social groups. Next month the branch will focus on famous Women Rochesterians for Women’s History Month.

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein went to the Beechwood Neighborhood meeting and talked to the group about the newest circulating items, sewing machines. This information was well received by the group. After the meeting one woman told Heeks-Heinlein she was very happy we were circulating these machines because the young generation needs to learn some of the skills the older generation knows how to do. She believes that having access to a sewing machine will encourage the older generation to teach the younger generation the important skill of sewing.

Anecdotes/Other

- This past summer, one of Sully’s clerks, Donna Grillo, passed away. This was quite a shock and heartbreak for staff and patrons alike. Thanks to the efforts of Patty Uttaro, a scholarship was set up in Donna’s name. Sully page, Yaak Awuok, was the first Scholarship winner, and was presented this award by Patty Uttaro and Dr. Tolly Reeves. Awuok has been working at Sully for several years, and just finished up his studies at Monroe Community College. He will be continuing his studies in the fall when he starts work on his four-year degree. We would like to thank administration for the support of our staff and patrons while we were all working through the loss of our team member. We are also grateful for the continued support of the education and training of our staff, which in turn benefits the patrons we serve.

- Students from the Wegman’s School of Pharmacy came in to provide free blood pressure checks and medication counseling for patrons. One adult patron learned about the blood pressure checks in the morning and returned in the afternoon for the program. This patron is looking forward to the students’ visit in March.

- A teenager came into the library right after we opened on a school day. Mr. Carter greeted the teenager and started a conversation with him as to why he was not in school. Carter found out that the family is currently in a crisis transition and he was able to talk to the teenager’s mom. He was then able connect the mom to the Rochester Rehabilitation professional, who visits the library every Tuesday to assist patrons with various needs. Carter worked with Maria Heeks-Heinlein to set up a private area in the library for the adult to make needed phone calls to find housing for her and her children. Heeks-Heinlein was able to refer the mom to Life Line.
Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Program

- Mardi Gras was celebrated with a story time and a craft. Patrons made paper masks with all kinds of colors, feathers, stickers, and pom poms. Mardi Gras necklaces were made out of fruit loops cereal. During the crafts, a discussion was had regarding Mardi Gras and how people celebrate it.
- The “No Passport Required” event for all ages had a great turn out. Over 50 people, young and old, came to enjoy local cuisine prepared by Roscoe Skinner and watch the WXXI show “No Passport Required”. The program was funded by WXXI. Gift cards from Wegman’s and Walmart, bus passes, and raffle items were given away.
- Senior book club met on February 19. After reading several heavy literary novels dealing with World War II, book club members decided to do some lighter reading with Vacationland by John Hodgeman. Episcopal home seniors expressed that they were appreciative of having a book club.

Anecdotes

- Anhar and her father come into the library about once a week so that Anhar can get help with her homework. While she was working on her homework her father told me that the real reason why they come to the library is because of the Foodlink snacks. He said that his daughter calls him at work all the time asking to be taken to the library. She wants to come so bad that he has started to change his work schedule to accommodate her.
- During checkout, a patron started describing a children’s book. The book was about a lion in the library. The lion encounters a librarian who follows all the rules and another librarian who is more laid back. The patron’s daughter had read this book so many times that when she came to the library she was looking all over for the lion.
- Melissa Jones, a regular patron at Wheatley, who currently works as a bus driver for city schools was recently hired for her dream job of working for RTS. Melissa shared that she was not very well versed with computers and needed some guidance with working on what is being requested of her via email for her new job. Melissa learned how to use the shortcut to copy and paste URL addresses as well as scanning and emailing information to different recipients.

Winton Branch, Kathy Wolfe reporting

Programs

- Over school break, the Winton Library hosted an Elephant and Piggy Party. For those uninitiated, Mo Willems wrote a series of twenty-five very simple Easy Readers about Elephant and Piggy that appeal to kids from about age four to second or third grade. Kathy Wolf and Steve Shon conducted the program, and it was FANTASTIC! As people gathered, they created a “star painting,” using epson salts and water for the paint, on black or dark blue paper. When the “paint” is applied it just looks wet, but when it dries, it has an ethereal effect. Wolf and Shon did dramatic readings of three of the books. Everyone played Elephant Says, a version of Simon Says, but kids were not supposed to do what Piggy Says. There were some pencil games printed out for a quiet table and a scavenger hunt of copies of book covers throughout the Children’s Room. Large muscle activities such as an Elephant and Piggy Toss Across, a cool action dice game, and a game where participants had to
walk a maze with a bird’s nest on their heads happened in the Community Room. They used the tables in the Children’s Room for the craft activity where patrons made an elephant puppet with colored paper and a straw that they blew on to make the elephant’s trunk extend.

- The book discussion groups discussed *Dear America* by Jose Vargas. Both groups were unanimous in their liking of and appreciation for this book. The topic of immigration is in the news frequently and everyone agreed that it was helpful and informative to hear the topic from an undocumented citizen. As Vargas states in the book, “words matter, don’t call me illegal.” Both groups had a great discussion and everyone agreed they learned a lot from this book and it put a human face on a newsworthy topic.

**Selected Meetings & Outputs**

*RPL Director, Patricia Uttaro reporting*

*February 15 – March 13*

**Standing Meetings**
City Senior Management Team (weekly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)
A. Traub, T. Reeves, B. Harrison, A. Suro, T. Burton, C. Ridarsky – one-on-one meetings (monthly)
FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
Monroe County Chief of Staff, Amy Grower (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**
Mary Jean Jakubowski, BECPL Director – conference call with Traub
NYLA Advocacy Day
Early Childhood Advisory Council meetings in Albany
County Executive Adam Bello & County Communications Manager Julie Phillip
MCLS Racial Equity & Justice Initiative Team meeting
Nathan Bense, Maureen McGuire, Sarah Hendershot, Aprille Byam, Thomas Fleischman, Christine Ridarsky – podcasting with LH/G clippings collection
County Health/City SMT on COVID-19
Sandra Simon, City Special Projects
RPL Staff Remembrance Gathering
Rundel Terrace Groundbreaking
RRLC Advisory Council
Arts & Cultural Council Board Meeting
PULISDO Diversity Committee – conference call
Don Specht & Ken Beaman
Mayor’s “Open Door” Public Office Hours
MCLS Board President Marjorie Shelly

**Email Activity**

*February, 2020*

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