



**Monroe County
Library System**
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**Rochester
Public Library**
More Than You Think

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TO: MCLS & RPL Boards of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: February 16, 2023
SUBJECT: Joint Monthly Report – February 2023

Joint Action Items

Proposed FY24 Central Library Budget (Harrison & Uttaro)

For the FY2023-24 fiscal year the Central Library faced an approximate \$250,000 gap, based on contractual salary and estimated wage increases, as well as inflation impacts for some operations (utilities, etc.). The gap was closed through a 1.5% inflationary increase to be requested from Monroe County for Central Library support (\$109,300) and minor increases in system service revenues that reflect wage/salary cost increases. State aid is projected as flat based on legislative feedback from the Governor's proposed budget (3.5% decrease vs. 10% education aid increase).

Two new FT positions are proposed from PT as part of the FY23 RASE recommendations, supporting expanded public services in technology and small business development; with some other position changes, we are net two additional FTE positions. Details are in the board attachments.

The proposed budget was reviewed by the Joint Board Finance Committee on February 9th; the recommendation, on a 6-0 vote, was to submit the budget as reviewed and accepted by the committee.

We are continuing to revise the Central Library Program Aid budget, based on outcomes of the state budget and evaluation of FY23 expenditures. A proposed FY24 budget for Central Aid use will be submitted for Board approval in the spring.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed 2023-24 Central Library Budget.

MCLS Action Items

None.

RPL Action Items

Proposed FY24 Community Library Budget (Harrison & Lewis)

Each year, the City Office of Management and Budget establishes a Base Level Allocation (BLA) amount to be met with each department's budget proposal. This year, no reduction was requested. However, anticipated revenue reductions in fine/fee collection and Safe to be Smart support required some expense reductions, met with minor reductions in professional services, a PT vacancy elimination, and proposed utilization of the library fund balance (\$50,000). Details are provided in Board attachments.

The RPL will advocate for a transition of part-time security staff at the branches to be merged with City Security under the Department of Environmental Services, given their current expansion of full security overlay at City public buildings including recreation. The proposal will support centralized training and procedures. Additional increment requests include a proposal for full fine elimination (noted separately in Board actions) and the conversion of a PT Librarian to FT at the Winton branch. The proposed budget was reviewed by on February 9th and endorsed 3-0 by the RPL Finance Committee.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed 2023-24 Community Library Budget.

Elimination of Fines on All RPL Materials (Uttaro)

The proposed RPL budget includes an increment request to eliminate fines on all RPL-owned materials, effective July 1. This request is the final step in the process of removing financial barriers to using library materials, which began in 2016 with the elimination of fines on materials for children and teens. That action resulted in a 10% annual increase in borrowing of those materials, which indicates increased library use and may be extrapolated to assume improved literacy and a step towards developing and sustaining a culture of reading in Rochester.

The approach to elimination of fines on all other materials was slightly different. Circulation Supervisor Chad Cunningham planned and executed research to determine the staff cost of collecting fines. He developed a plan that tracked time involved with collecting, negotiating, and waiving fines. This plan was implemented at three locations: Central, Sully, and Winton. Results are below:

Central

Fine money collected: \$308.25

Staff cost for explanation and collections of fines: \$34.35

Cost is 11% of revenue collected.

Fine money waived: \$64.20

Staff costs for waiver of fines: \$3.25

Cost is 5% of amount waived.

Total collected/waived: \$372.45

Total staff cost: \$37.6

Cost is 10% of total

Sully

Fine money collected: \$16.00

Staff cost for explanation and collection of fines: \$37.83

Cost is 236% of revenue collected.

Fine money waived: \$17.50

Staff cost for waiver of fines: \$ 8.69

Cost is 49% of amount waived.

Total collected/waived: \$33.50

Total staff cost: \$46.52

Cost is 139% of total.

Winton

Fine money collected: \$107.10

Staff cost for explanation and collection of fines: \$78.65.

Cost is 71% of revenue collected.

Fine money waived: \$4.20

Staff cost for waiver of fines: \$10.85

Cost is 258% of amount waived.

Total collected/waived: \$111.30

Total staff cost: \$89.50

Cost is 80% of total.

The results from Sully and Winton clearly show the cost of collecting fines far exceeds the revenue collected and supports the request to eliminate daily fines. We also look at this as an equity issue. We know from past anecdotal evidence that fines keep economically disadvantaged people from using the library. Eliminating daily fines removes a barrier that has kept people from using the library.

In this proposal, only daily fines will be eliminated; patrons will still be responsible for replacement costs on materials that are not returned.

Board Action Requested: Approve elimination of daily fines on materials for adults.

Amendment to the RPL Board By-Laws (Hamilton or Uttaro)

We propose amending the by-laws of the Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees to allow for the creation of Trustee Emeritus positions as necessary. The proposed amendment to Article II Section 4 is:

When an individual has served on the RPL Board for five years or more and has made significant contributions to the library over the course of their involvement with the Board, that individual may be nominated by a sitting Board member to be a Trustee Emeritus. A majority vote of the whole Board is necessary to make this appointment. The appointment is honorary and does not include the privilege of voting on Board and library business nor may a Trustee Emeritus hold office or be counted as part of a quorum. A Trustee Emeritus is not required to attend Board meetings nor participate in annual training but may attend both at their discretion. A Trustee Emeritus is expected to serve in an advisory capacity in their area of expertise to the Board and the Director.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed amendment to the bylaws to create an option for a Trustee Emeritus position.

Trustee Emeritus Appointment (Hamilton or Uttaro)

In response to the change in by-laws, we propose appointing Carolee Conklin to the position of Trustee Emeritus. Carolee completed one full 5-year term as a trustee for the Rochester Public Library following her retirement from the Rochester City Council. While on Council, and as Chair of the Finance Committee, Ms. Conklin proved herself a staunch library supporter by regularly advocating for additional funding and positions for the library. Ms. Conklin educated her fellow council members and city staff on the importance and value of libraries to the Rochester community. Her historic knowledge of City and Library finances makes Ms. Conklin a valuable advisor to the Library Director.

Board Action Requested: Appoint Carolee Conklin to the position of Trustee Emeritus of the Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees.

Closing Rundel First Floor on April 20 (Uttaro)

We are requesting the closure of the first floor of the Rundel Building for the full day of Thursday, April 20, to accommodate the Mayor's State of the City address. The event is 4:00–7:00 pm, but safety protocol and the set-up process require that the space be closed to the public prior to the event. Staff will still be able to retrieve books for patrons, and staff who normally work at the circulation and reference desks on the floor will be reassigned to other departments as needed. This is the first time that the State of the City has been delivered in the library.

Board Action Requested: Approve closure of the first floor of the Rundel Building on Thursday, April 20.

Professional Services Agreement, IP Consulting Services (Harrison)

Tracy Jong Law firm has merged with another firm; the attorney expertise utilized by the Business Insight Center for intellectual property referrals has transferred to one or more law firms. As a result, BIC is recommending a new law firm to carry out consultations for the remainder of the fiscal year. Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP will charge a rate of \$250 per hour for consultations, not to exceed \$4,800 (the balance of the original IP service agreement to be terminated with Tracy Jong Law firm). The new agreement term will conclude on June 30, 2023 and BIC will make future recommendations for services for the upcoming fiscal year.

Board Action Requested: Approve a professional services agreement with Troutman Pepper with terms and conditions as described above.

County Historian Services Agreement and Budget Amendment (Uttaro)

Monroe County issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for County Historian services in November 2022; the library responded outlining activities to be provided by the Local History and Genealogy Division. Under an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) between the City and County, the Library will move the County's historical archives from St. John Fisher's Lavery Library to the Rundel Building. We shall maintain the County's historical archives, perform the duties of the County Historian as outlined in the RFP, and engage consultant(s) to assess and evaluate the County Historian responsibilities and collections. Christine Ridarsky will act as interim County Historian with recommended appointment by the County Legislature.

During the first year of the IMA, the Library, City and County will explore the feasibility of shared service between the County and City for a regional history center. We believe the library is best positioned to maintain regional historical archives, but need time to determine the optimal physical and virtual spaces to provide both City and County Historian services.

The IMA will be for a one-year period beginning April 1, 2023, with four additional one-year renewal period options. The first year of services will amend the 2022-23 Budget to accept \$50,000 for consultant costs, collection relocation and housing. Subsequent year services will be incorporated as part of the annual Library budget process.

Board Action Requested: approve an amendment of the 2022-23 budget and endorse the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) between the City and County.

Report Items

MCLS & RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

MCLS Member Library Visits – In January, I began a months-long tour of all our member libraries, something I have not done in several years. I'll be spending time at each library, talking with directors, listening and learning about what is important to them. I spent a lovely afternoon at Mendon with Lyla Grills and was delighted by the focus on art and community. Lyla spoke about the transition from librarian to library director and about how much she enjoys the Mendon community. In early February, I visited Rush and spent a fun afternoon with Kirsten Flasse. Rush is the definition of "cozy" and seems to be a favorite spot in the community to relax and read. We spent some time talking about books, reading, and book discussions, and it was wonderful to just have a chance to catch up with Kirsten. Gates is next on my list, and I'm looking forward to visiting the library where I started my career!

Brie Harrison and Shareka Jackson also recently spent some time with new Greece Director Cathy Henderson introducing her to the intricacies of the MCLS budget process, discussing construction grants, state aid, and cost

shares. We're all making an effort to visit more libraries this year, which will be especially important to the members with fairly new directors.

Cynthia Dana and Chad Cunningham provided training on Handling Difficult Situations to the staff at Pittsford and Webster. The discussions were lively and informative, and there was a request for certificates to make this part of continuing education credit.

Finger Lakes Emerging Leaders Course – MCLS and the OWWL System have been awarded an “Action & Innovation” grant from RRLC to produce an updated Emerging Leaders course in 2023-24. This is a collaborative project between two public library systems that seeks to discover and develop new leaders in both systems. Creating an environment where emerging leaders from urban, suburban, and rural libraries can learn with and from each other will build empathy and understanding of the different types of communities served in our region. Understanding the broader picture of public library service to very different communities while uncovering the similarities and differences will build leaders who think beyond their physical buildings and therefore are better able to identify and respond to community needs.

Emerging leaders are library staff members—librarians as well as support staff—who are at the beginning or middle of their careers and are looking to have a larger impact on the library landscape and step into leadership roles, though they may be unsure where to begin. Participants will be people who have goals like breaking into speaking at conferences or professional publishing, leading a department or directing a library, and figuring out how to take their big ideas and make them real. They will learn how to communicate their ideas, critically evaluate and execute courses of action, create a support network, navigate power structures, and build resiliency in the face of inevitable pushback and failures. They'll learn to look beyond their current situation to confidently build a bright future.

Recruitment will begin in late February, with selected participants notified in April and the first class scheduled in May.

Social Media

January 2023	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	106	222	525	-	-	122	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	16	5	26	-	14	49	9
Engagements	56	78	1611	-	58	387	52
Check-In/ Mentions	3	9	9	-	-	6	-
Post Reach	1909	4336	8006	-	-	1554	13360
Video/Story Views	-	-	393	-	-	578	930

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central/RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)

- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 4,722
- Click through – 135

New subscribers – 13

OverDrive December

- Total Checkouts- 86,584
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 922
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 6,365
- SORA Checkouts- 922
- Great Courses- 111

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Collaborative Programs featuring multiple member libraries:

In This Moment 2: Revolution Reckoning Reparation

The *In This Moment* chapbook project pairs ten teams of Black writers and photographers with ten Black leaders from across the city of Rochester resulting in the publication by Visual Studies Workshop of a series of ten chapbooks. The project offers vital learning opportunities and reflection for all students and community members. The project teams and chapbook images are curated by local Black curator, Amanda Chestnut. Free Chapbooks and programming around the project are available at many MCLS member libraries. RPL provided financial assistance to VSW for both runs of this project. In the past, libraries have been consumers of content –

buying materials and making them available through our libraries. In this instance, RPL provided financial assistance in the *creation* of content which is now made available through our libraries. This project is such a valuable way of seeking out, recording, and sharing the stories of important Black and Brown community members who are changing Rochester for the better. Their stories and the In This Moment chapbooks represent some of what we hope to accomplish with the Archive of Black History & Culture currently being developed at Central. <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/calendar/RPL/?t=d&q=in%20this%20moment&cid=-1&cal=-1&inc=0>

Connections with Evan Dawson featured Ogden Farmers' Library director John Cohen, Henrietta Public Library director Adrienne Pettinelli, and others on the best books they read in 2022.

<https://www.wxxinews.org/show/connections/2022-12-30/rochester-and-western-new-yorks-favorite-books-of-2022-part-1>

Brighton Memorial Library

Thanks to generosity from the Friends of BML, the library now has a Singer sewing machine to borrow. Those 14 and older can also sign up for one hour sewing machine lessons. To request a lesson, call 784-5300 or email bmlcurbsidepickup@gmail.com (subject line: sewing lesson) with your name and availability. Fabric and thread will be provided for the lesson.

East Rochester Public Library

East Rochester served as a drop-off location for a post-holiday toy drive organized by Assemblymember Jen Lunsford's office. Donations were shared with the Toy Library of the Rochester Public Library and Saint's Place in Pittsford.

Fairport Public Library

In a January Facebook posting, the library shared a sneak peek at how the Children's Room Dollhouse I Spy game gets changed out. <https://www.facebook.com/reel/857133602061763> For daycares that cannot make the trip in to see the dollhouse, Fairport offers storytimes on the go. All it takes is an email to infodesk1@fairportlibrary.org to connect with children's librarians to discuss a potential visit to a childcare location!



Gates Public Library

January was National Thank You Month! To celebrate, the library had a button making station set up at our circulation desk from Monday, January 23 through Saturday, January 28. Patrons came in and chose from a handful of ready-made designs or designed their own 2¼" pin-back button for free. Just a small way to thank our patrons for supporting their local library this month and year-round.

Greece Public Library

Our Winter Reading Challenge Bingo runs from January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023. Each Bingo winner will receive a library branded campfire mug, and be entered into a grand prize drawing for a cozy Reading basket! All winners must be able to pick up their prizes in person. You may complete more than one bingo, but will only

receive one mug. You can turn your completed bingo cards into the library or send a photo of your board (front and back) to greece.webmaster@libraryweb.org.

Hamlin Public Library

January's Cookbook Club was fun and delicious! Everyone enjoyed asparagus quiche, giant meatballs, caramelized bacon dip, buffalo chicken dip, apple & potato salad, ricotta puffs, buttermilk biscuits, bacon & chip brownies and banana split nachos.



Henrietta Public Library

The library celebrated the release of a highly anticipated biography with a punny facebook post. "THEY'RE HERE! Ready to hear Harry spill the tea? Grab a cuppa and check out his new memoir, now available at HPL. But there's a royal demand for this title, so hurry over. There's not a minute to Spare. We wish you great Sussex in getting your hands on a copy."

Irondequoit Public Library

During the winter, it's not easy to feel energized and balanced. The weather and the darker evenings can all conspire to make us feel a bit gloomy and out of sorts. A lack of natural light can disrupt natural sleep patterns and make it harder to wake up in the morning. The library offered a session to help patrons fight those winter blues. The seasonal Mindful Winter Wellness series introduced participants to the practice of mindfulness and several skills, including meditation, for managing stress. Participants had the choice of viewing this program in person at the Irondequoit Public Library or at home via livestream using Zoom.

Mendon Public Library

We've kicked off our new "Tuesday Travel Talks" with our first presenter, Rick French of Pack, Paddle, and Ski. Rick shared pictures and stories from 40 years of adventures around the world, from all seven continents!

Newman Riga Library

Sharon Schwalm of Clay-Wood Expressions created the latest library display. We can't believe the amazing details on each hand built house!



Ogden Farmers' Library

The new puzzle exchange is already stacked sky high with choices. The concept of exchanging old puzzles for new-to-you puzzles had received several positive comments. One interested facebook user even hoped the library was in Ogden, Utah. Maybe they will visit?

Parma Public Library

Through January 31st, patrons were invited to donate new, non-expired, non-perishable boxed and canned food to the Parma Public Library to reduce their Parma fines \$1.00 per item (up to \$5). This year's donations benefited Hilton Foodshelf. No fines were required to donate dry goods.

Penfield Public Library

Thanks to the Friends of Penfield Public Library, library users can now enjoy complimentary online access to The New York Times news and games! Whether in the library, at home, or on-the-go, you can catch up on the latest news at any hour of the day. Visit our database center to gain free access - just scroll down the database page and click the drop-down for The New York Times.

Pittsford Community Library

Belle from the Pittsford Musicals production of Beauty and the Beast read during an amazing story time. The shows took place January 27-29 at Pittsford Mendon High School. One performance of the musical had members of the audience who were invited by the MCLS One System Team.



Rush Public Library

Children struggling to read have had proven results reading to therapy dogs! Our own Ally the certified therapy dog will be making appearances at the Rush Library children's events for children of all ages to meet and read with. In January, Ally was part of the Do Dragons Like Popcorn? Program.

Seymour Library

Every month during "Fun with Paper" the library will be doing a craft created with paper and includes learning about the history and origins of that technique. The paper making program, in January, was so popular there were no more open spots available.



Webster Public Library

The library hosted Webster-area schools for a Preschool Open House. Six local preschools attended offering parents and families an opportunity to learn about their programs and find the best fit for their family. Approximately 60 people attended, with many commenting that the information was helpful as their family navigates a major milestone in their preschoolers' life. For those unable to attend the Open House, there is a binder at the Children's Room reference desk with contact and program information for local preschools.

MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Work in the MCLS Office for January revolved around local advocacy visits, staffing issues, and preparation for member libraries to submit annual reports. This included Smathers and Gunther collaborating on the What We Need/Year in Review document shared with legislators and member libraries.

Local advocacy visits were well received with an average of ten people at each visit. MCLS historically enjoys strong support from our representatives to the state. Our astute representatives noted a change in the tone of library advocacy, toward acknowledging how much libraries could do when properly funded. They were especially interested in the myriad of ways libraries are temporarily bridging the digital divide. Many of the representatives told personal stories of library usage. They have had librarian parents, worked in libraries, or turned to libraries themselves when out of work and needed resources. The message we heard repeatedly was, "Tell us what you need, we support the libraries, and librarians get a great return on investment (ROI) from every dollar the state gives them." What we need was clearly described in our advocacy document and positively discussed during each of the local visits.

Libraries hosting advocacy visits:

Pittsford, Assemblymember Jennifer Lunsford, 135th State Assembly District

Brighton, Assemblywoman Sarah Clark, 136th State Assembly District

Rush, Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes, 133rd State Assembly District

Hamlin, Assemblyman Stephen Hawley (pictured), 139th State Assembly District

Chili, Senator Pam Helming, 54th State Senate District

Sully Branch, Assemblymember Harry Bronson, 138th State Assembly District

Parma, Assemblyman Josh Jensen, 134th State Assembly District



Advocacy visits via Zoom:

Assemblymember Desmond Meeks, 137th State Assembly District

Senator Robert Ortt, 62nd State Senate District

Senator Samra Brouk, 55th State Senate District (February 2, 2023)

Left to schedule: Senator Jeremy Cooney,

Big Read Update - On January 17 and 24 Alicia Gunther met with staff from NTID/RIT to discuss plans for the NEA Big Read happening in April 2023, featuring the book *Deaf Republic* by Ilya Kaminsky. Gunther will be assisting with the promotions of the events surrounding the Big Read at member libraries and at RIT during the months of March and April. Gunther is also working to gather related program information from member

libraries to share with NTID. Gunther has arranged for the purchase of 40 copies of *Deaf Republic* as an E-book through Overdrive and Simultaneous use of the audiobook through the month of April to support the Big Read.

Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to twenty-one in-home patrons. Three new patrons (located in the City of Rochester, Irondequoit, and Hilton) were added this month.

In-Home Materials Distribution:

- Home Deliveries: 19 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)
- Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: two patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (each cartridge included 15-25 titles selected and downloaded by Outreach staff)
- Books by Mail: zero patrons received physical library materials via USPS.

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 11 library stations—fulfilling special requests for nine sites. There were no missed deliveries this month (Cycle One).

A member of the Library Committee at Episcopal Senior Life Valley Manor recently shared their appreciation for the Outreach Department's Micro Collection Lending Program:

"I want to let you know how much our residents at Valley Manor appreciate and enjoy the materials loaned to us by the Outreach Department. Our residents look forward to the delivery of the new large-print books, which are heavily used by those who need large-print books, as well as our residents who do not need large print. This also helps to extend the availability of large-print books, as our collection is not extensive. Thanks for providing such a wonderful service."

Corrections and Reentry Support

- Outreach staff continued partnering with the Educational Coordinator at the Monroe County Jail to distribute periodicals and build a recreational reading library at the downtown facility.
- This month, the Outreach Department partnered with the Center for Community Alternatives, Judicial Process Commission, and Legal Assistance of Western NY to present a RAP Sheet/Fingerprinting workshop, the second workshop in a four-part Community Based Legal Education Series. These workshops help justice-involved individuals overcome barriers to well-being and success created by an arrest and conviction record. At this month's session, attorneys and service professionals from Legal Assistance of Western NY and the Judicial Process Commission instructed attendees about their rights as they pertain to the disclosure of RAP sheet information and fingerprinted individuals interested in obtaining their RAP sheet for free.

- Outreach staff fulfilled two requests for “Making Moves” reentry resource packets from incarcerated individuals, Transitional Coordinators, and other justice-involved persons; the “Making Moves” webpage received 55 total pageviews.

Outreach

- Amy Discenza facilitated a short story discussion at Lifespan’s Wolk Café: a community gathering space that provides daily programming as well as breakfast and lunch for people ages 60+ in downtown Rochester. This month’s story was *The Great Wide World Over There* by Ray Bradbury.
- Outreach staff assembled and delivered titles in a variety of formats for book discussion groups at Valley Manor Independent Living Apartments (City of Rochester).

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

- Central Library is beginning to see more requests from community organizations to table in the library. This month, the Monroe County Department of Health Public Health Representatives provided Narcan to patrons who were willing to take a brief training on proper use, and the Board of Elections hosted a table in BLB to encourage patrons to register to vote.
- In the coming month, the Rochester Education Foundation will be onsite for a FAFSA event, and the DMV will visit for a day.
- Cynthia Dana and Ana Suro attended the first round of the Esports tournament featuring the Central Library Liberators and officers from RPD, held in ImagineYOU. The excitement in the room was palpable. The officers got beat in the first round; however, the younger officers from the force came back strong and beat our team. It is wonderful for the youth to get to see law enforcement in a different light; Jeff Bostic has created a safe, fun atmosphere for all.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

- Paper crafts are a popular request here in the Art Literature Division because they are inexpensive and do not require a fine art background. Paper Lanterns seem to have gained popularity in communities as they can be used for events and can be hung inside a house to dress up a space. Art therapist Shannon Halligan is a favorite instructor here and she brought this fun and creative craft here for our patrons to decorate. Patrons were positive and enthusiastic about this class. Some comments were, “*Shannon is a great instructor, she makes a class fun,*” and “*It was a fun project, and I got a pretty lantern to take home afterward.*”

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with Rob Poltrino of Skull Diamond & Heart Capital. He generously donated \$2,500 to BIC. Rob then came for a tour of the library and met other team members. She met with David Brown of Impellent Ventures to discuss how BIC can assist the companies in their portfolio.
- Byrnes met with Xanthe Matychak of the Digital Harbor Foundation, an organization that works to unlock opportunities and access to tech. Their work is centered in Baltimore but has reached around the United States with some international programs.
- Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh presented at the Rochester Open Coffee Club. ROCC is a weekly informal meetup of founders, students, investors, and anyone interested in startups, business, or networking. They also met with the hardware manufacturing businesses that are part of the Ithaca Rev accelerator/incubator (affiliated with Cornell University). Byrnes was a guest speaker for RIT's Exploring Innovation class. The division hosted a business class from Roberts Wesleyan College to discuss our resources.
- Melissa Cobo participated in the following training: Trademarks and non-fungible tokens, Patents and non-fungible tokens, copyright and non-fungible tokens sponsored by the US Patent and Trademark Office and the Office of Copyright. Digital Inclusion Asset Mapping Webinar sponsored by the NY State Library. Engaging With the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Online Tools & Citizenship Resources sponsored by the Federal Depository Library Program.
- Meddaugh attended training for the new patent search tool from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, via Zoom.

Consulting

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 2 in person, 56 by email, 0 by mail, 4 by phone, 7 by Zoom.
- Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 0
- Webpage views: 30
- 3D Printer: 0
- Hours of in-depth market research: 60
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 28
- Tracy Jong appointments: 1 hour 30 minutes, 2 appointments.

Database Usage – January Statistics

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 5 Value: \$13,300
- IBISWorld: Page views: 75 Value: \$34,500
- InnovationQ: Not Available at this time.
- PitchBook: Logins: 21
- Statista: Searches: 23 Downloads: 10

Anecdotes

- Byrnes received this email from Eric Krohn, Director of Business Incubation Programming, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Partnerships with SUNY Binghamton:
“Wow,....crushing Monday’s challenge....I can't thank you enough...this really does help us consider if this particular startup is worth time and money, etc...”
- Someone from Chicago attend Business First Wednesday and a research request came in from the West African nation of Togo. The CEO was referred to us by a professor at Binghamton University.

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Halima Abukar organized the Chinese New Year Program with the Chinese School of Rochester this year. Patrons made their own Chinese lanterns, sculpted pandas out of play-doh, and wrote their names in Chinese calligraphy. Starting the program was a woman who played the pipa to draw a crowd, and to end the program was the youth orchestra that played several Chinese classical songs for patrons to enjoy.
- Katie Powell resumed toddler story time on Tuesday mornings. In this session, she is incorporating extra sensory activities. Most of the activities can be duplicated by parents at home. Below are examples of two activities- a contact paper sticky wall and a rice sensory bin dinosaur dig. A mom of a 19-month-old regular attendee said that every time she puts her son in the stroller and says they are going to story time, he rocks back and forth and says, "tick tock," getting ready for one of his favorite lap bounces. Repetition plays an important role in brain development. It makes the toddlers feel secure because they know what to expect and helps them with memory and recall skills.



MCLS & RPL Boards Director's Report – February 2023 (Continued)

- Miranda Hazen began a new series of programs called Try-it Fridays with different crafts or other activities to try every other Friday. We started with ModPodge, used tissue paper and glass jar lanterns, and did some yarn crafts: pompoms, loom yarn flowers and finger-crocheted headbands.
- Cathy Kyle hosted her first monthly Tech Saturday programs. This month we used Tinkercad to create 3d projects. It was a small, yet highly enthusiastic group. Some of the kids knew more than others and were willing to lend a helping hand.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Hazen also began monthly visits to Generations Childcare at Clinton Square to do story times in their Universal Pre-K, Early Pre-K, and Preschool classrooms. This is a new childcare center downtown and one of the newest Raising a Reader (RAR) sites.
- Burton, Kyle, Hazen, and Powell all participated in the January MCLS Children's Services meeting. Burton shared some best practices for procuring donations for summer reading and how to access the summer reading manual online. Program ideas were shared around the All Together Now theme. The group also discussed reading lists and the best way to curate list. Burton sent out surveys and the topic will be discussed at the February meeting once everyone has a chance to contribute.
- Burton met with Rochester Children's Book Festival committee to discuss the 2023 festival and ongoing collaborations with community partners Luis Perez (Summer LEAP), Cara Rager (WXXI), Kara Brown (Connected Communities), and Lisa Hiley (Nazareth RISE).
- Burton and Hazen welcomed families from Renaissance Charter Academy on a Wednesday night. And despite the snow and chilly weather, 30 families came out. The school provided dinner and academic information and invited Burton to share the services Central can provide. After short presentation families were invited to explore Central through a fun Scavenger Hunt created by Taylor Coonelly. Afterward, the school's family coordinator sent a gracious thank you card.

Raising a Reader

Coonelly and Margarita Chaves continued to support sites and teachers by helping set up the RAR program in classrooms. Taylor and Margarita have also continued with story times at sites with a focus on various literacy skills. The RAR team also attended Hart street's winter festival. They were able to share winter books that families could check out from the library. Families were also able to meet their RAR implementers to learn more about the program. It was so wonderful to observe the kids recognize the RAR staff and ask if they were going to read a story. Also, at our VOA site, one of the teachers decided to create a RAR picture wall to encourage families to continue the routine of book sharing with their RAR bags.



The RAR team put together a “*Snowtastic*” winter event. The event’s goal was to demonstrate ways to connect books throughout our daily lives and how to ask good questions and then expand on questions. Everything was based on the book *Snowballs* by Lois Ehlert. After storytime, families played together with sensory bins to find the letters to spell SNOW, move the pieces in a sensory bag to create a snowman, make connections to items in the book to things they might find in school, home, or outdoors; retelling the story through sequencing, play a memory game based on the book, make a snowman using items similar to those in the book, and using water and food coloring make picture and write letters in the Reading Garden. Families with children from ages 2–10 had a lot of fun with the activities.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 1

New Borrowers -227

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 14

Notarial Acts - 162

Anecdotes/Other

- This month Circulation and Information began assisting the CASH program. Circ and Info staff were able to utilize CASH’s online appointment tool to make appointments for patrons to get their taxes done. Staff also began printing out documents and making copies for CASH clients. This not only helps CASH with their workflow, but it also gives CASH clients who might not otherwise utilize library services a chance to meet library staff and interact with them.
- Cunningham was working at the Rundel circulation desk when a patron came up and said she had a question. She wanted to know how many books she could check out. Cunningham told her that she could take as many books as she wanted to. She was thrilled as she had many books on origami that she was interested in. This led to a discussion where the patron learned about renewals, parking validation, borrowing e-books, getting library cards from NYPL, Brooklyn, and Queens, and how to check her account online. The patron was amazed at the services and access that she didn’t know were available and was excited to utilize the library system more fully.
- A patron came to the Circulation desk to check out items and told staff that he had been really blown away by all that the ImagineYou lab offers. Jeff Bostic helped him complete a couple of tasks he hadn’t even planned on working on during his visit to the library. The patron is going to tell the schools he works with about the ImagineYou lab and all the cool things you can do there.
- Circulation and Information staff were sad to learn that one of our long-term regulars passed away in a fire this month. Christine was known for bringing in candy, asking interesting questions, and telling stories of her life that seemed almost impossible to believe. One of the most amazing parts of working in a library is meeting interesting people and getting to know them. Saying goodbye to people you have helped for years is hard, but the memories of our patrons mean they are part of our library community even after they are gone.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

The Local History & Genealogy division held a staff appreciation lunch sponsored by Patty Uttaro in recognition of the team's winning table display at Staff Day last October. The team greatly enjoyed the meal and each other's company. Spirits were somewhat dampened because the lunch was also a goodbye party for Leah Green, who accepted a full-time job in Queens, NY, and whose last day as the library's Genealogy Specialist was January 27. The division's request to fill the vacancy with a part-time Library Assistant was approved.

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The January installment of *Mourning in the Morning*, presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, featured a talk by Dennis Carr called "First! Best! Most! Rochester's Superlative Heritage at Mount Hope Cemetery." The program was held via Zoom; a recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/aQyyBAdwlds>.
- *Rochester's Rich History* featured a talk by Karen Lankeshofer on "Elsa Von Blumen: Rochester's Forgotten Female Athlete." The program was held in person in Kusler-Cox Auditorium and was simultaneously streamed via Zoom. A recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/plJWomi4obw>.

Exhibitions – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- *Welcome Home: Celebrating Rochester's Immigrants* remained on display in the Rundel second-floor exhibits hallway.
- The division's rotating table display featured the division's collection of published family histories and corresponded with Hope Christansen's post about "Preserving Your Family History" on the *Local History ROCs!* blog: <https://rochistory.wordpress.com/2023/01/12/genealogy-books-and-periodicals-pt-4-preserving-your-family-history/>.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Brandon Fess and Antoine McDonald gave a presentation as part of a webinar on Community Webs Collaboration & Sharing. The webinar was part of an effort by Community Webs to build awareness of the potential that its tools provide for collaborative projects. Fess gave a brief question-and-answer-style presentation explaining the basics of the library's involvement in providing resources for the Race, Class, and Inequalities curriculum, a collaborative project that uses the Community Webs platform. McDonald spoke about the library's emergent Archive of Black History & Culture and how Community Webs might be a useful tool in developing it.
- Christine Ridarsky and Michelle Finn met via Zoom with Katie Albers (University of Rochester) and Caitlin Mieves (Landmark Society of Western New York) to discuss how the library might support a collaborative digital humanities project to preserve Rochester's historic landmarks using photogrammetry and laser scanning to capture heritage-grade, 3-dimensional digital models of the structures. If the project is funded, Ridarsky and Finn will help the project team identify historic structures and streetscapes that can be used as

subjects to train academics, museum workers, graduate students, and others on how to capture and create 3D models. In return, the library will receive copies of the digital models that are created.

- Finn led a professional development workshop on *Rochester Voices* and the “Erie Canal for the Classroom” unit for a group of teachers from the Rochester Area Council for the Social Studies (via Zoom).
- The Fairport High School student video project in which Fess participated in December was completed and shared with him this month. The video is well-produced and features an interview with Fess about Rochester and the Civil War. It is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR6YNfpecPA>.

Special Collections

- The newly established Community Advisory Board for the Archive of Black History & Culture met twice this month: once for an onboarding orientation and again for its first official business meeting.
- Fess accessioned the Collection of Early Photographic Materials, an artificial collection intended to provide a home for early (pre-1900) photographic materials in the Rochester Public Library’s special collections that lack provenance or otherwise cannot be assigned to named collections. Due to their age and chemistry, these materials are best housed under full climate control and, thus, are being kept separate from the existing Photograph Collection.
- Cynthia Howk, the former Architectural Research Coordinator for the Landmark Society of Western New York, continued to aid the division in arranging blueprints in the James DeVinney/Corn Hill Historian Papers.

Digital Projects

- The division contributes digitized content to a handful of online platforms, increasing discoverability and access to these materials. In January, there were 706 page views of division content available through *New York State Historic Newspapers* (<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>); 1,228 page views of content available through *New York Heritage* (<https://nyheritage.org/>); and 1,664 page views of content available through the library’s *Rochester Voices* site (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/>).
- The FamilySearch volunteer scanning team digitized 29 volumes of *Rochester Suburban Directories* in January. See below for details. Once this material is available online, we will include monthly page views for it with our online materials use statistics.

Materials scanned by FamilySearch, January 2023:

Title	Volume	Author	Pages	Call no	Publisher and place	Publication date
Rochester Suburban Directory	2003W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,134	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2003
Rochester Suburban Directory	2003S	R.L. Polk & Co.	590	Rr917.4788 R676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2003
Rochester Suburban Directory	2003E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,448	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2003
Rochester Suburban Directory	2004W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,140	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2004

MCLS & RPL Boards Director's Report – February 2023 (Continued)

Rochester Suburban Directory	2004S	R.L. Polk & Co.	592	Rr917.4788 R676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2004
Rochester Suburban Directory	2004E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,420	Rr917.4788 R676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2004
Rochester Suburban Directory	2005S	R.L. Polk & Co.	609	Rr917.4788 R676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2005
Rochester Suburban Directory	2005W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,154	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2005
Rochester Suburban Directory	2005E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,416	Rr917.4788 R676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2005
Rochester Suburban Directory	2006E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,382	Rr917.4788 R676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2006
Rochester Suburban Directory	2006W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,074	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2006
Rochester Suburban Directory	2006S	R.L. Polk & Co.	612	Rr917.4788 R676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2006
Rochester Suburban Directory	2007E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,420	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2007
Rochester Suburban Directory	2007S	R.L. Polk & Co.	604	Rr917.4788 R676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2007
Rochester Suburban Directory	2007W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,108	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2007
Rochester Suburban Directory	2008E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,323	Rr917.4788 R676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2008
Rochester Suburban Directory	2008S	R.L. Polk & Co.	604	Rr917.4788 R676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2008
Rochester Suburban Directory	2008W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,062	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2008
Rochester Suburban Directory	2000E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,014	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2000
Rochester Suburban Directory	2007W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,108	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2007
Rochester Suburban Directory	2008E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,323	Rr917.4788 R676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2008
Rochester Suburban Directory	2008S	R.L. Polk & Co.	604	Rr917.4788 R676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2008
Rochester Suburban Directory	2008W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,062	Rr917.4788 R676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2008
Rochester Suburban Directory	2000E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,014	Rr917.4788 R676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2000

MCLS & RPL Boards Director's Report – February 2023 (Continued)

Rochester Suburban Directory	2009S	R.L. Polk & Co.	604	Rr917.4788 Rr676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2009
Rochester Suburban Directory	2009W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,062	Rr917.4788 Rr676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2009
Rochester Suburban Directory	2009E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,350	Rr917.4788 Rr676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Livonia, MI	2009
Rochester Suburban Directory	2010W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,104	Rr917.4788 Rr676rw	R.L. Polk & Co., Ralston, Nebraska	2010
Rochester Suburban Directory	2010E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,408	Rr917.4788 Rr676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Ralston, Nebraska	2010
	January 2023 Total Pgs		30,345	29 books		

Social Media

There were two new posts to the *Local History ROCs!* blog in January: “Genealogy Books and Periodicals pt. 4: Preserving Your Family’s History” by Hope Christansen, and “Sundries, Smokes, Sweets & Stones: The Evolution of the Main & Clinton Intersection” by Emily Morry. The newest posts received 357 views (327 from Morry’s post alone, which garnered 92 likes and 20 shares within three days of being posted on the Central Library’s Facebook page). In addition, readers from 35 countries revisited 180 previously published posts for a total of 2,852 views in January. All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Interns/Volunteers

The division’s work was supported by three volunteers in January for a total contribution of 31.75 hours. Karen Sue Brown continued sorting and filing the backlog of newspaper clippings; she contributed 10.25 hours. Linda Lopata contributed 9 hours to rehousing and cataloging items in a collection of pinback buttons in the Office of the City Historian. Noeme Liestman provided 12.5 hours arranging, rehousing, and describing the library’s previously unprocessed early (pre-1900) photographic materials.

Upcoming Events/Programs

- Saturday, March 11, 10 am – 12:30 pm, Zoom – Mourning in the Morning – “Helen Pitts Douglass: Advocate, Wife, Keeper of the Flame,” by Michael Nighan.
- Saturday, March 18, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, Kusler-Cox Auditorium – Rochester's Rich History – “Rochester’s Julia L. Sauer, Her Children’s Classic *Fog Magic*, and Canada,” by Brian Gibson.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

During the month of January, RMC handled 699 reference questions and 366 non-reference transactions for a total of 1065.

Circulation

In January, RMC rented 7 pieces of equipment, 268 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a grand total of 4,700 items or 33% of the Central Library's total circulation of 14,749 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added).

****When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC circulated 9,662 items! ****

Door Count

January saw the Mon – Fri door count averaging 192 people daily.

Mon & Wed evenings (6-8:30) averaged 26 patrons while Saturdays averaged 115 patrons.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- *Casting and Mending: How Therapeutic Fly Fishing Heals Shattered Minds and Bodies* was on Saturday, January 14, Patrick Scanlon (Pat) presented an author discussion about his book and described the types of fly fishing programs available and explained why fly fishing and these programs are therapeutic for breast cancer patients, disabled veterans, and people who are recovering from drug addiction.
- The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) is returning to the Central Library in the Science, History and Social Sciences Division to offer in-person assistance to people for them to file their tax returns. This program will be held every Wednesday through April 12, 2023.
- Science, History, and Social Sciences Division had a class visit of 7th and 8th graders from Honeoye Falls-Lima School District, arranged by Renee Kendrot. The students were seeking primary sources for history topics. Topics included the 1918 Pandemic, AIDS Epidemic, Women in Biology, Jesse Owens, and the Berlin Olympic, and were shared ahead of time which enabled Flo Morris to pull materials. The students will be participating in the New York State History Day Competition.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

LROC visitors were up to about 60 this month, even with cancellations. Certainly, the weather is contributing to more people in need of housing. A new related drop-in counseling service/support group will be offered by a member of PCHO staff, though not specifically related to housing; all topics are welcome. This will be for an hour on Wednesday afternoons.

Anecdotes

On one of our colder days, a late afternoon visitor to the Science Division was desperate for housing but was without a phone. He had been hoping for help from Monroe County Division of Human Services. Pellegrino was able to help him connect with DHS; a phone call was returned to Pellegrino's cell phone as the library was now closed, and the gentleman was able to be placed at House of Mercy, to which Pellegrino drove him.

Technology Center, Dennis Williams reporting

The Technology Center experienced significant staffing challenges this month due to three FT staff out on medical leave. Patron Services Manager Cynthia Dana and Central Library staff have worked tirelessly to cover shifts in the Center and ensure that patrons have access to the resources they need. Staff have been incredibly generous in taking on extra shifts, which is very much appreciated by administration and by our patrons. Thanks are also due to Branch Administration and the Charlotte Branch for loaning their Manager Dennis Williams for several weeks. Dennis spent 4 days at Central and 1 at Charlotte over the course of several weeks. His contribution to the Tech Center is greatly appreciated.

Programs

- Pedro Nunez' Dungeon and Dragons program has become so successful that all the computers are taken, and he's setting people up in the regular tech area along with having several people virtual. With a minimal amount of technological need, he has created a virtual environment that is just as robust as the in-house environment.
- From Nunez: Two simultaneous groups now run every Saturday hosting around 15-18 people between the two groups. These groups are run by two experienced "Dungeon Masters" or group leaders that help facilitate and run the program. Continued usage of the Technology Center Resources is key to making this possible. Being able to share screens and communicate with each other in different rooms has helped immensely. Plans to set up large events combining all groups and using different areas such as the KGA if possible are in the works. The usage of social media and online resources has grown interest in the program. Currently, almost a half dozen people sit on the waitlist.

Anecdotes/Other

- There are patrons who take a liking to a specific staff member. One such patron came in looking for Ginger Brewer as he is used to working with her at the Arnett Branch. Once the patron told Brewer of his situation, she was able to navigate the New York State website and assist him with getting the certificates and forms he needed for his rental property. The patron stated to Brewer, *"Oh my goodness! How did you know all of this? I swear you're nothing short of a genius. This is exactly why I will always love the library. The staff are truly amazing and knowledgeable."*
- Brewer observed that the Tech Center experienced a heavy volume of patrons needing assistance with IRS and Department of Labor forms as tax time is here. The team worked together to assure that patrons were satisfied with having the paperwork needed to file their taxes. Staff also scheduled various CASH appointments during the month.
- The Technology Center staff believes in the power of education. On various occasions, staff took the time to educate patrons on utilizing and accessing the functions of their cell phones, tablets, and laptops. The patrons who weren't confident enough with the technology were impressed with the mini lessons taught by staff and walked away feeling more comfortable with operating their devices and maintaining the upkeep.
- We've had the benefit of having great success with our partnership with Rochester Works. Several individuals that have often come in looking for jobs and not having luck have seen a renewed interest and success with job searching.

- One patron struggled due to English being his second language. While a hard-working individual, he had several experiences where he struggled to get hired. He told us of being brought to training out of state and being told to go home after they realized he had an accent and struggled a bit with English. Working with our Spanish-speaking staff at the tech center, he was able to connect with Rochester Works who advised them on a grant opportunity in the field he had gone to train for. He followed that up by finding another company looking for help and offering him a position once he finished the training. This reinforces the value and collective impact of bilingual assistance and access to partners such as Rochester Works, Ibero, and other local organizations.
- Another patron came to us with an email full of spam messages and job offers that led to phishing websites. He wanted to find a job to help support his 2-year-old son as his previous job conflicted with the hours he needed to be available to be able to watch his child. Staff took the time to filter the messages and educate him on proper email navigation so he would better be able to view and filter job offers/interviews. We connected him with Rochester Works to help build a better resume. After several days he received a job offer that required him to connect via Microsoft Teams. His command of computers was not the strongest, but our staff was able to set up all the tools he needed to be available for his first interview in years... and his first-ever interview online. He was excited that he was able to use our resources for the opportunity.

Teen Central, Jeff Bostic and Shetora Banks reporting

E-Sports – This month the Central Library Liberators took on the Rochester Police Department in their first annual fundraising event. It live-streamed on twitch at twitch.tv/esports_liberators. The two groups faced each other in Fortnite and Tekken 7. The officers were given accounts with superhero skins on them. The police officers also purchased food for everyone. It was a fantastic event and became very competitive when the officers in the academy all showed up and were able to come back from a 3-1 deficit to defeat the liberators. The joint group battle royal resulted in a 4th place finish. CLL President Kuji beat Lieutenant Ince and every other officer in Tekken 7 near the end of the night. Check out some pictures below:





Photography

This month the digital media lab assisted the Halpern Education Center in their Halpern Reads initiative. They were able to create posters of staff members reading their favorite books and hang them in the school for the kids to see.



Programs

Girls Who Code: Teens are continuing to participate in the tech lessons and new students have joined the program. Catherine Kyle has been added to the Girls Who Code as a facilitator for the third–fifth grade curriculum. We received a \$500 grant from Girls Who Code to purchase anything we need through Amazon. Faezeh Jahanshiri purchased a few much-needed items, including two Raspberry Pi kits for our Robotics club which starts next month.

STBS activities

Chess is such a great problem-solving tool for all ages in the teen center. On this day we had a group of youth casually playing so John Hylton suggested a quick pop-up tournament with the winner winning a \$5 gift card. King was the eventual winner and was crowned best in the teen center.



Transfr Career Exploration--The teen center's Transfr Career Exploration virtual reality program is still providing an incredible experience for the youth. In the future, Hylton would love to see some careers youth suggested added to the program such as Cosmetology or Surgeon.

Anecdote/Other

This month we met a family, two parents with two tween-age children, who had recently relocated here from out-of-state. They have lived in Buffalo and California and "have never seen such an amazing library." We took a tour of the Teen Center and ImagineYou lab and they were impressed by the equipment and that patrons had free access to create content and material. One of the kids asked the mom "Can we come here every day?!" We all shared a laugh.

Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

During the month of January RPL saw progress in the Maplewood building renovation project. The residence behind the library on Augustine St. was razed to make space for expansion. Hunt Engineering and Architecture facilitated an idea session at the Maplewood site with branch staff, RPL Facilities, City Architecture, and Branch Administration. Initial ideas, options, and preferences for design were shared and discussed.

I also had the opportunity to attend the second City of Rochester "Team of Leaders" retreat. The goal of these gatherings is to create the opportunity for key second-level management staff to begin developing as a team to focus on leadership development and create a structure and culture that will support and enhance staff throughout the mayor's administration. During this last session, I was reminded that the library does a lot of things right. For instance, some of the discussion shared was the recommendation that All-Staff meetings are held, and that pertinent information from SMT be shared with appropriate staff. This is standard procedure at RPL.



During this month, I also participated in in-district advocacy meetings facilitated by the MCLS office. Along with town Directors, I was able to share information about library programs, services, and needs with selected Legislators. Officials who participated were engaged, and verbalized commitment to helping the library continue to meet the needs of the community.

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

- The branch hosted many events including Prudence Anderson-Leusch's kid's arts and crafts programs. The Herb Smith Trio concert was popular. Patron Ben Rubin sketched the Herb Smith Trio:

Community Outreach/Meetings

- Staff attended several community meetings and interacted with various civic groups. The First Tuesday book club, which has just wrapped up its third annual January book give-away for the Arnett library community, is planning on buying a batch of books to be given away this February.



Anecdotes/Other

- A pop-up program Nancy Cholewa conducted was very well received by a family. Cholewa reports she had a family come in requesting a project while Mom was doing some computer work in the library. The kids completed seven beaded bracelets while they were here. Mom got her work done and the kids had a good time creating their bracelets.

Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Jennifer Cherelin reported the 8th Charlotte produce distribution helped to provide produce to over 79 different families.

Anecdotes/Other

- Cherelin received a nice accolade from a patron who reminded her that Cherelin had introduced her to free classes at the Rochester Academy of Irish Dance last year and she shared just how much she appreciates them and that they have been her sole opportunity to have time for herself (because of her young children) and that she loves it!

Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- Switch Day: Kids and their families enjoyed trying out our new Nintendo Switch game console. Mario Kart was a hit! This event will continue as a weekly Friday Switch program. (Education and Engagement)
- Children's Book Club: Kids who participated in a book club meeting this month picked out a funny book called *Tater Tales* and took turns reading it aloud. They even did silly voices! (Education and Engagement)
- Elvis Presley Dance party: Children and adults danced to Elvis songs in celebration of what would have been his 88th birthday. Younger participants had many questions about his life and music! (Education and Engagement)
- Betty White Birthday Party – It was a month for birthday celebrations. What would have been Betty White's 101st birthday was celebrated by viewing episodes of her 1970's TV show "Pet Set". Birthday cake and punch were served. The DVD "Pet Set" has now been circulating! (Stewardship and Curation)



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Anna Murray Douglass Academy School #12 After School Program Registration: Jennifer Nesbitt and Evanna DiSalvo attended to let registrants know that the library is available to participants between 4pm when the program ends and 5pm when bussing is being provided.

MCLS & RPL Boards Director's Report – February 2023 (Continued)

- Hipocampo Off the Shelf Podcast: DiSalvo participated in a podcast produced by the local bookstore Hipocampo Books. It was hosted by co-owner Pamela Bailie and was an Urban, Suburban, and Rural Libraries Conversation. The other librarians who participated were Bruce Tehan (Arnett), Adrienne Pettinelli (Henrietta), and John Cohen (Ogden).

Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Lincoln Branch Manager Sarah Lehman generously agreed to stand in as the Manager at Lyell after Lyell Branch Manager Shamika Fusco departed for a new adventure in Livonia. We are grateful to Sarah for her flexibility. Managing both branches and all the vacancies has been a challenge, but Sarah has handled everything beautifully. She has worked on reviewing applications and scheduling interviews for positions at both Lyell (PT Librarian I, PT Clerk) and Lincoln (FT Librarian I, PT Librarian I, Security Guard, and two Page positions).

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jasmine Santiago provided crafts and LEGO activities for the Avenue D Recreation Center.
- Vera Haygood attended the Safe to Be Smart January outing with youth at the GEVA theater performance of *Ain't Misbehavin'*.
- Haygood provided Avenue D Recreation Center youth with a vision board program.
- Lehman visited Assemblywoman Jen Lunsford's office to arrange for the pickup of donated toys the Assemblywoman's office coordinated in December.

Lyell Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Natasa Prelevic organized Kids & Littles fun packs. Each pack contains 15 pieces of educational enrichment including coloring pages, math, tracing, and establishing connections between numbers and colors. She also put together Take & Make activity packets with snowman headbands, paper-plate snowmen, pipe cleaner snowflakes, and pipe cleaner molecular and atomic structures. These activities and crafts promote attention to detail, concentration, fine motor skills, and 3-D spatial reasoning.
- Manju Sharma organized a chess club for teens. Playing chess is not only for fun or no screens time but also it improves memory, strategic planning, social engagement, brain stimulation and more. Teens know the benefits of chess game, so they keep coming to play chess in the library and a couple of them are ready for tournaments.
- Foodlink's Nutrition Education outreach program Just Say Yes came to Lyell Branch Library for a cooking demonstration and nutrition information session. The focus of that day's session was sugar. Attendees received science-backed and accessible information about diet, nutrition, exercise, as well as recipes and some food-related goodies to take home.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- There were two LEGO challenges in January: one was to build a dream house, car, boat, pet, etc. and the other challenge was to build a bridge and see how much weight it could hold. The latter was a bit noisy as the bridges came crashing to the ground.
- When the library is getting a bit too rambunctious, there has been an impromptu story time. Mark Hafer has been reading stories where the children get to choose the path that they take in the story. The children have had a lot of fun and it keeps the older children more engaged.
- The anime and manga club is holding a manga reading contest. At the end of the month the participant who reads the most will win a prize.

Anecdotes/Other

- Maplewood staff met with HUNT architects to discuss the expansion of the Maplewood library.
- A regular patron who has been coming in for help with searching online for work shared that she has a new job as a secretary at an engineering office. Staff helped her complete her onboarding paperwork.
- The weekly advanced conversation class for new English speakers meets Wednesday night at 7:30 pm on Zoom. There were seven participants last week and their native countries are Belarus, Russia, Brazil, Iran, Bangladesh, Korea, and the Dominican Republic. The dominant topic for the hour-long conversation was food.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Scarves, hats, and gloves are available at Monroe. It is important to thank two major donors: one is a high school friend of Cherrin Arnold, and the other is a woman in her 90s. Monroe has given some of these scarves to the Street Medicine Team to give out to people along Monroe Ave, which has been very successful.
- The Monroe Branch Food Pantry is back! This shelf was donated to Monroe by Common Ground Health and donations are starting to come in.

Anecdotes

- A four-month-old came to visit the library. During the visit, Matt Hoople held a one-on-one story time for this family and the four-month-old started giggling at Hoople. The mother was excited because this was the very first time she had heard the little one laugh.
- After coordination between Scheg and Andy Carey with the Street Medicine Team, two long-term homeless patrons received assistance in getting to a shelter.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- Sheilah Murphy hosted a Death Café with Tove Phillips. It was the second time they have collaborated. Community engagement was high and patrons showed a strong interest in having more of these events. (Priority #1: Increase use and support of our libraries among our diverse populations).

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Alex Haehn went to Volunteers of America for Raising a Reader storytime. Haehn went to three classes and did a winter storytime theme. The children loved singing with scarves and flannel board stories.
- Murphy visited the Episcopal Home on Mt. Hope for Seniors. The book discussed was *Calypso* by David Sedaris. The group was divided, they either loved or disliked the telling of the tales by Sedaris, it resulted in a lively discussion.

Anecdotes/Other

- Safe to be Smart held a raffle drawing for two vouchers for the *Ain't Misbehavin'* at the GEVA Theatre. The winning patron screamed and announced that she'd never, ever won anything before!
- A patron completed her MCLS library passport and became the proud owner of a new book bag!



Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

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- Jacob Bigelow purchased several colorful chess sets from the Rochester Chess Center and set them up in the center of the teen area. The bright sets have drawn in several patrons to play a game, and the Sully Chess Club has a larger attendance now than in previous months.
- Teaching Artists ROC presenter Eva Sarachan Dubay provided a Slay the Dragon program at the Sully Branch Library. The Thomas Ryan Community Center allowed us to use the gym for this educational and adventurous program. The dragon did not stand a chance against our young warriors.
- Jasmine Santiago provided a pipe cleaner craft at the Sully Branch Library and organized a pop-up game activity for the children at Sully.



Anecdotes/Other

- Joseph Becker and Nicholas Cornish worked on an interactive map of all bus stops in the city. The city has decided to use this map as part of the partnership they have with the Regional Transit Service and the Center for Employment Opportunities for the snow removal program. The map can be found at <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/bus-stop-snow-removal/>. Cornish left Sully to do a five-month Urban Fellow program at City Hall (expected to return to Sully when the program is done).

Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Anecdotes/Other

- There has been a huge uptick in Teen Volunteer hours this month. The teens have been averaging five hours per week per teen for a total of 15 hours per week. Teens have been trained on the Cricut, are still avidly learning chess and have made friends with the Chess Club regulars, tested take and make projects, created a bulletin board display in the Teen area, and have completed integrating children's DVDs into their cases to free up drawer space for Adult DVDs.
- Wolf was chatting with a customer whose children were playing with the train table, when she mentioned how much she has been enjoying our display window. She said that as she drives by the library she always likes to take a glance. We have been getting more and more comments on our window since volunteer Nancy Nevinskas, a retired art teacher, has taken over the décor.

