TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: April 25, 2018  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – April 2018

**Action Items**

**Audit & Tax Services Agreement (Agenda Item II. d)**

The RPL’s agreement term with Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. expired with the 2016-17 fiscal year audit. Given the time and cost benefit to pairing our audit with the City’s auditors, RPL participated in a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for audit and tax preparation services, joined with the City School District, Joint School Construction Board, REDCO, Rochester Land Bank and SMG (Blue Cross Arena operators). The Bonadio Group, EFPR Group and Freed Maxick responded to the RFP. Based on proposal evaluation criteria, Freed Maxick is the recommended firm from all participating reviewers (RPL, City Accounting, City Council, and RCSD Accounting staffs).

Freed Maxick is recommended for audit and tax preparation services for a three-year term, beginning with the 2017-18 fiscal year. We will submit an amended agreement in 2020 if all parties are in agreement to extend services; the extension would be for fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22. The cost of the agreement shall be paid from annual RPL operating budgets. Fees for RPL services are as follows:

- $11,525 2017-18 fiscal year (beginning fall 2018)
- $11,525 2018-19 fiscal year (beginning fall 2019)
- $11,800 2019-20 fiscal year (beginning fall 2020)
- $12,000 2020-21 (optional extension for future authorization)
- $12,200 2021-22 (optional extension for future authorization)

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of an Agreement with Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C., for independent audit and tax preparation services for the Rochester Public Library, for a period of three years and not to exceed $34,850.

**Tele Data Com Amendatory Agreement (Agenda Item II. e)**

In January, the RPL Board authorized an agreement with Tele Data Com for network cabling assessments at various RPL and MCLS library facilities, supporting e-rate category 2 projects. Tele Data Com provided services for network cabling at the Central Library as part of a successful e-rate bid in 2017. As part of technology center planning, it is recommended that the Central Library increase the fiber backbone between the Rundel and Bausch & Lomb buildings to support future bandwidth needs.

Based on Tele Data Com’s prior assessment and installation work, and their competitive cost estimate, we recommend an extension of their network agreement to provide additional cabling and connectors, for a cost not to exceed $3,500 for equipment and installation. The cost shall be funded from RPL Library Automation professional services operating budget. This shall increase total compensation under the agreement to $8,000 and shall extend the term of service to June 30, 2018.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of an Amendatory Agreement with Tele Data Com Inc. for the furnishing and installation services described, for a revised total compensation of $8,000 and a term extension through June 30, 2018.
Tri-Delta Resources Amendatory Agreement (Agenda Item II. f)
Library Automation staff and Tri-Delta have spent the last several months assessing current server and storage needs for the RPL and MCLS. While several recommendations shall be incorporated in upcoming capital equipment and professional services planning, there is an immediate need to upgrade the backup target server due to current capacity.

Tri-Delta has proposed a new server, including installation services, for a cost not to exceed $8,600. The cost shall be funded from RPL Library Automation professional services operating budget. This shall increase total compensation under their current annual agreement to $11,600.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of an Amendatory Agreement with Tri-Delta Resources, Inc., for the furnishing and installation services described, for a revised total compensation of $11,600.

Acceptance of Founding Era Grant (Agenda Item II. g)
The Central Library Science and History Division applied for and received a $1,000 grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The grant program, Revisiting the Founding Era, is a three-year initiative designed to bring libraries and their communities together to explore the continuing relevance of the Founding Era of the United States by reading, discussing, and sharing insights into the writings of Americans who experienced it firsthand. The $1000 grant will cover hosting reading and discussion based public programming exploring the Founding Era and its resonances today. The grant activity period runs from June 1 to September 30, 2018.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Acceptance of $1,000 from the from Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Request to Close the Rundel Building Early on Thursday November 8, 2018 (Agenda Item II. h)
The New York Library Association’s annual conference will be held in Rochester from November 7-10 and we are beginning to get requests to use the Central Library for various functions during the conference. We are requesting an early closing of the Rundel Building at 5:00 pm on Thursday November 8 to accommodate set up for the Public Libraries Section event, Author! Author! Which will feature author, illustrator, and cartoonist Harry Bliss.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approve early closing of the Rundel Building at 5:00 pm on November 8, 2018.

Report Items
Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director

Recommended Reading

Upcoming Events
- May 18 – Beer Tasting Event at Gates Public Library, contact Greg.Benoit@libraryweb.org for more information.
- May 24 – Teen Central 1 Year Anniversary Celebration, 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Teen Central.
- June 1 – NYLA’s Public Libraries Section Spring Conference in Canandaigua -

**Upcoming Book on Resilience** – I recently received this email from Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and wanted to share:

> “Just a note to let you know I’m putting the finishing touches on my second book for the American Library Association that will be out in June and it will feature a few paragraphs about your library’s participation in the anti-poverty initiative in Rochester. The book is called “Resilience” and will be one of the first books in a new series championed by the ALA Center for the Future of Libraries.

> The mention of your library is the capstone of the point I try to make in the book about the importance of collective impact, that the problems facing our communities are often too large, too complex to be tackled by just one agency. That only by working together, across agencies can we truly make systemic change.

> I’ll be honest, it gives me great pleasure to spotlight a NY library in this portion of the book!”

Many of you had the opportunity to listen to Rebekkah talk about sustainability of libraries in October, 2017, when she and Matthew Bollerman spoke in Rochester. This news is very gratifying coming from Rebekkah and I think it speaks volumes about the work being done in our libraries every day by our frontline staff all the way up to administration. The focus on the patron and the community is critical in developing partnerships with other agencies. Every month, more connections are made that ultimately benefit our patrons and community members.

**RPL Strategic Plan Progress**

**Education & Engagement**

**REACH** (Rochesterians Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless) provided this testimonial about the impact a librarian (in this case, Katie Powell at Arnett) can have on a patron’s life:

> Just yesterday, I was at the Arnett branch and a librarian was able to call a young woman who needed support during her pregnancy. The woman was able to walk over in less than 15 minutes and have us begin the process of making sure she had all the supports available to her. The relationship this young woman had with the librarian and the easy access to the building was priceless in this situation. She was truly isolated from her family and did not have knowledge of the organizations that could support her at this time of need. The library likely changed the trajectory of her and her child's life. The City should be adding finance to make the branch libraries even more accessible and up-to-date with services.

**TASC Assistance** - Jim Lynch, a tutor at Wheatley, reported on the success of one of his TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) students: “Please let me share the joy I experienced this morning! Meliq had not completed his paperwork as of Thursday last week and was slated to take his remaining 2 sub-tests of Science & Social Studies on Friday morning. While with Meliq at Wheatley, I called ABC and requested he be able to take them, albeit the 11th hour. Brian Kelsey accommodated my request, Meliq showed up at 8 am with paperwork in hand. I checked with Meliq yesterday, he said he took the sub-tests. This morning I called to thank Brian and was delighted to hear Meliq passed both sub-tests, and his TASC Diploma is on its way via the mail!
**Sustainability & Resources**

**Renovation Update: Rundel Auditorium** - Most demolition of the Rundel Auditorium is complete, and asbestos abatement is done. The temporary partition wall will come down starting Monday April 16 and staff in Rundel 3 will no longer be shooed out at 5pm.

Here is a photo of a bare Auditorium. There is much to come, and work will continue through June; we will provide updates as necessary. The room will be an active construction site, and we will still have contractor access for loading on the freight elevator from time to time.

**Stewardship & Curation**

**Our Staff Are Stars!** – During National Library Week, patrons can nominate library staff as Library Stars at this website - [http://ala-apo.org/nlwd/](http://ala-apo.org/nlwd/). This year, Bruce Tehan from Arnett discovered the following nominations for members of his staff:

- Katie from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because she is nice. – Kaylani
- Ms. Katie from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because She is smart and she is nice. – Ariani
- Anne from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because She is a great computer technology teacher. – Priscilla
- Shetora from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because We have fun playing UNO with her. – Zyere
- Fartun from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because she comes in early and she does the books right and when she is on break she talks to me. – Muna
- Ms. Shetora from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because She is fun and funny. – Bill
- Katie from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because she is nice and I had fun making remote control cars with her. – Zyere
- Katie from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because she helps with homework and she talks to us good and nice and I like explains stuff to us that we do not know and she makes us happy. I like how she found us a tutor. I like how she likes to help everybody. – Providence
- Mr. Kenny from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because he is nice and does his job and he barks. – Muna
- Ms. Prudence from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because helps with homework. She helps us be nice kids. She helps us do arts and crafts. She is nice. She helps us with everything we need. – Orea
- Ned from a public library in Rochester, NY, is a Star because as the director of the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library Ned Davis does countless things that benefit the patrons of the Central Library of Rochester and all its branches. The things Ned has done have enriched RPL patrons lives and brought acclaim to each library site. He does these things with kindness, talent and dedication. He quietly plays down his huge efforts while crediting all other RPL team members for the library’s achievements. – Bruce

**Internet Access Snapshot** – I thought it would be interesting to share some data around web requests through the MCLS network for the month of March.

- Total Web Requests: 256,327,324
- Total Blocked Requests: 2,198,645
- Blocked Requests – these are general categories of content that was blocked by the network filter in March
  - Malicious Code/Virus: 772,894
  - Phishing: 2,040
Social Media, Alicia Gunther reporting

Facebook
- Page views - 960
- New page likes - 57
- Page Reach - 33,535 people
- Post engagements - 15,438
- Checked in and mentions - 40 People
- Facebook Events Calendar
  - Individual events reached - 7,982 times.
  - Visitors went to our full events calendar - 1,206
  - 260 people engaged with the event on Facebook or linked to our MCLS page through the event
- Video Views - 10,037
- Responded to 7 messages on Facebook

Twitter
- Profile Visits
  - Rochester Public Library - 700
  - Monroe County Library System - 325
- New Followers
  - Rochester Public Library - 28
  - Monroe County Library System - 12
- Engagements
  - Rochester Public Library - 379
  - Monroe County Library System - 6
- Favorites
  - Rochester Public Library - 145
  - Monroe County Library System - 3
- Mentions
  - Rochester Public Library - 65
  - Monroe County Library System - 63

Instagram
- New Followers - 64 (901)
- Likes - 184
- Comments on a post - 6
- Mentions - 10
- Engagements - 91
- Page visits - 70

Constant Contact Newsletter
- Subscribers who opened newsletter - 1,060
- Click through - 124
- New subscribers - 13

YouTube Channel
Central Library Updates
Assistant Directors Sally Snow & Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

Art and Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

Celtic Rubber Stamps
Artist John "JackBear" Ballou has been carving his own rubber stamps for over 15 years and brought his expertise to patrons teaching them how to carve a seasonal rubber stamp. Two weeks before St. Patrick’s Day, students used an X-acto knife and carved a Celtic design and four-leaf clovers. This was a fun, enjoyable class that all students enjoyed, and said Ballou was a friendly and patient teacher. All students took home cards they made, and some said they will mail them out for St. Patrick’s Day.

Printmaking: Engraving
Librarian Nanci Nugent taught an engraving class to library patrons. These engravings were created on Plexiglas with an engraving needle. Nugent instructed patrons how to bevel their plate with a file. Students also learned how to create their image with the needle, how to ink their plate, and how to use the printmaking press. This class was held on St. Patrick’s Day and these students said they could have been at the parade, but they really wanted to learn this printmaking technique. All students created an artist proof and returned for the second class on March 31 to create their artist edition. Students said they have wanted to learn printmaking, but the classes and supplies are expensive. All said they were amazed what can be created with Plexiglas, a needle, and ink.

Introduction to Screenwriting
This four-part series, part of our Rochester Writes program, is being offered for the first time at Central Library. Instructor Howard Solomon, a Brighton resident, is an award-winning writer in film, television, and theater. We are very fortunate to have him here to share his expertise. His class is a general introduction to the art and craft of screenwriting and delves into the basics of what makes a screenplay work, through class exercises, screening film clips and reviewing selected examples.

Outreach
Carol Moldt met with Ellen Apetz, Program Director of Lifespan’s Older Adult Center, on March 20 to continue discussion of plans for Central Library to offer some classes and programs at their center housed in the Sibley Building. Librarians from the Arts & Literature Division, Christine Ridarsky of Local History, and Brian DiNitto of the Information Center have agreed to be involved in this outreach effort. Ellen was particularly interested in the following ideas: beginning ukulele classes, craft classes, journal writing classes, book discussions, local history talks, genealogy how-to classes, and basic computer classes utilizing Central Library’s mobile computer lab. Ellen will be in touch with Carol in late April to begin creating a program schedule.

Collections
The Arts Division added two more sewing machines for borrowing, thanks to FFRPL. The Division added two sewing machines to their collection in 2017, which have been very popular. The number of holds on these 2 machines was causing patrons to wait up 5 months for their turn to borrow a sewing machine. Nanci Nugent worked with FFRPL’s Ned Davis to purchase the two additional machines. Thank you, Ned! Patrons will be happy they will not have a long wait to create their sewing projects.
Business and Social Science, Darlene Richards reporting

Consultations
- Darlene Richards met with someone who is looking into volunteering to be a grant writer for various organizations in the Monroe County area.
- Richards also met with two people from the Greater Rochester Summer Learning program. This program focuses on Pre-K-8; they provide outreach and family support. The grants would provide books for the Pre-K program this summer. Richards sent the following information: demystifying the 990-PF, and a list of the top 50 foundations giving grants in education.
- Darlene Richards met with two people from the Out Alliance. Richards had given a class to the Alliance a couple years ago and they were able to secure grants to have more staff. Currently, they are looking for money for LGBT seniors for staffing, communication mechanisms, and volunteer transportation. Richards met with them and learned about how many seniors were isolated, and that the population of LGBT seniors was growing rapidly.
- Linda Halliburton consulted with individuals by phone and appointment, which were referred to the Division for information for their business plans. Referrals came from the Rochester Chapter of SCORE and Virginia Smith of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Individuals requested business planning information for the following business concepts: quick print shop, liquor store, Spanish desserts bakery and catering, gluten-free bakery, home improvement contractor, and silk screen business.

Anecdotes
Linda Halliburton assisted a library customer, who wanted sales figures for professional audio recording equipment. This was a challenging request. Linda found the 2017 NAMM Global Report by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM), which appeared to have the desired information; however, the report was $1,000 for non-members of NAMM. NAMM mentioned that one of the data sources for the report was Music Trades magazine. After a little more sleuthing, Linda found and accessed Music Trades’ annual Music Industry Report Card for free and emailed it to the customer. The customer replied, “This report is absolutely fantastic! I'm fairly certain this has exactly what I needed. I can't thank you enough!”

A patron needed some assistance with locating grant information to conduct some major home repairs. She explained to Renee Kendrot that this is her second home and she already received the first-time home buyer’s grants from the City of Rochester. Kendrot conducted some research to locate other grant options; some of the options were: Neighbor Works, Habitat for Humanity, and United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. I provided her with the phone numbers to ask for more information and websites, so she could read more about the qualifications for a home improvement grant. Kendrot also explained to the patron the search terms that she used to conduct a search in Google. The patron plans on contacting the organizations listed above and conducting more research independently. The patron was appreciative of Kendrot’s assistance for her situation.

Children’s Services Consultant, Tonia Burton reporting

Pyramid Model Training - Our libraries continue evolving to meet the needs of our communities. Many of our member libraries have expressed an interest in gaining tools and training around ensuring children and their families have the support needed to navigate challenges and barriers. The early childhood community has been addressing issues of trauma-informed care and as a result, has developed training called the Pyramid Model. It has been used by early childhood staff to help children with their social and emotional needs. The Pyramid Model provides a set of effective practices for the early childhood workforce that is effective in preventing challenging behaviors by focusing on teacher behavior/beliefs and on child skill development. This early framework includes practices from the field of early childhood and special education and focuses on three areas: Promotion, Prevention, and Intervention. Burton will be working with staff at Rochester Childfirst Network to create Pyramid Model training that addresses the library environment. Once this training is created, the hope is to share across the state with other library systems. This collaboration is helping Central create and maintain relationships with supporters
throughout the county. Through these relationships, we are able to gain important funding from Rochester’s Child
that will cover the cost of this training as well as building on relationships with early childhood educators. It is
building upon the work from Raising a Reader and the work that Director Uttaro is doing statewide through her
involvement with the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council.

**Raising a Reader** - We wrapped up March with the 2nd annual Raising a Reader Egg Hunt at the Central
Library, attended by 118 Raising a Reader children
and parents. Children participated in an Egg Hunt in
Teen Central, traded in eggs for prizes and books,
made a spring craft, listened to a Storytime, and went
on a Word Search Scavenger Hunt.

To give parents some help with expanding literacy at
home, we developed a craft based on the lyrics of
favorite songs and nursery rhymes. Rhyming teaches
children how language works. It helps them notice
and work with the sounds within words. When
children are familiar with a nursery rhyme or rhyming book, they learn to anticipate the rhyming word. This
prepares them to make predictions when they read, another important reading skill. Parents were also entered into a raffle by providing feedback on their experience with the Raising a Reader program. Some of their responses on what they’ve gained from
the program were: “My daughter has a larger vocabulary now” and “I learned that
reading with your child is fun.” The mother and daughter pictured below were thrilled
to find the “golden egg” and trade it in for a big prize! “We do game nights at our
house. We are so excited,” the mom said.

This month, many of our sites had goodbye gifts for Amy McLean, our RAR
coordinator who left us in March. Head Start even hosted a baby shower to thank her
for all she has done for their families. She made an incredible mark in her four years
with Central Library.

**Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting**

**Programs**

Teens and families packed Teen Central to meet Aesha
Ash, a Rochester native who became a premier
ballerina with an international career in dance. Ash had
many friends and community contacts who came to her
presentation. She tackled subjects like race-based
objectification, lack of diversity in the ballet world,
negative body image problems and body shaming from
instructors. She displayed photographs that show her
pride in community and her personal and professional
drive that helped her soar beyond criticisms and
discouraging voices. Students from Geneseo’s
Rochester Young Scholar’s Academy could see how
determination and perseverance can take a personal toll, but also yield amazing successes. Ash’s struggle was gritty
and personal, but also very relatable as something every young person can achieve and emerge victorious at the
end. Never surrender your dreams!
imagineYOU Media Lab, John Hylton reporting

Success Stories – Jhonte Dumas
Mr. Dumas is an imagineYOU volunteer who has been a patron of this library for years. Teen Central and imagineYOU have watched Mr. Dumas progress from a young teen to a young man and navigate his way through troubling times with the help of these two programs. He has recently acquired a full-time position with N3 as a Business Development Representative and still finds time to work on projects with various youth.

A Gamer’s Nostalgia podcast #5 - Christopher Williams, the owner of A Gamer’s Nostalgia, visited imagineYOU to shoot a video podcast with teens from the library. They discussed many topics including violence in video gaming and the impact it could have in the real world. imagineYOU and AGN will produce a video podcast every Monday for Facebook and YouTube.

This is a link to the ImagineYOU & AGN podcast video. https://youtu.be/wDcwJ1zNYLM

Music Video Production - The imagineYOU youth are very interested in creating music and then utilizing the lab to create music videos. Ezekiel is pictured here in front of the green screen performing his song “Don’t Matter” which was recorded in the imagineYOU sound studio with Josh Pettinger. Ezekiel is editing the footage with the help of Mr. J and lab volunteers and will be ready for release in mid-April.

Circulation and Information Services - Cindy Dana reporting

Statistics
- 494 New Borrowers Registered
- 6 Rochester Regional Library Council Access cards issued
- 126 Notarial Acts performed
- 14 Computer classes held; 36 attendees
Community Outreach/Meetings

- On March 6, Kathy Sochia, along with her colleagues from various divisions, presented to a group of senior citizens, Neighbors as Partners. She spoke about the services offered at the Circulation and Information service areas. They were very impressed to learn that we offer Notary Services and are interested in the computer classes. She was able to use CARL. Connect to register 3 new borrowers and update 2 accounts. This meeting took place at the Central Library.

- Magdi Carrillo joined Outreach Staff on a visit to the Monroe County Correctional Facility; as our Bilingual Librarian, Magdi can connect with the Spanish-speaking inmates. She reviewed how to create a resume and provided information in Spanish on overcoming barriers to finding a job once they are released back into society. She also shared with them the many resources available at the library. The 90-minute session was attended by 6 inmates. She reported that one of the inmates received visitors that day and asked them to come back another day because it was important that he attend the session being given in Spanish.

- I gave a brief overview of Circulation/Information and fielded questions from the Adult Librarians Group. They had questions regarding patrons sent to collection and were interested to know if we still validated parking. They want to be able to refer patrons to the Central Library and provide the correct parking information. This question led to me asking Corinne Clar to update the parking flyer and have it distributed to member libraries. The group was also impressed with the volume of our router.

- The MCLS Staff Association has “adopted a shelf” at House of Mercy. We have agreed to a 6-month commitment of providing food items to help keep their pantry stocked. All of the member libraries will participate, with Frank Russo (Shipping) agreeing to allow his drivers to pick donations up as they travel their daily routes. We have filled 4 boxes so far.

Anecdotes

- We received an email from Anne Brown, Adult Services Librarian, Arnett Branch, expressing her appreciation at having the most up to date information regarding the Food Pantries. Her comments included: It has been a huge time saver to have all of that information in one place. Also, the City Quadrant/Town designators for each agency are a really helpful feature. Kathy Sochia has sole responsibility for contacting the agencies and updating the bulletins. We often use it at Central and are pleased that others find it useful as well.

- I am often in the position to help teens regain their library privileges by waiving some or all of their fines. Jailen, a shy teen, approached the desk with one of his buddies. He had difficulty expressing his reason for being there. After shooing away his more gregarious friend, he finally shared that he needed to borrow books for school, but he had BIG fines on his card. I looked at his account and told him the fines weren’t so bad. I told him I would waive the fines if he was willing to take responsibility for returning the materials on time in the future. So, we shook hands on this agreement, and he told me he loved me! His friend made a face and told him he was crazy to say that. He replied “hey, she gave me the library back, that’s the world.”

- After working with Information Staff on her resume, a patron returned to thank them and inform them that she got a job with Xerox (Conduent) in the former Irondequoit Mall. Another patron was happy to land his first job in 6 years after receiving assistance with his resume.

- Magdi has worked on more detailed templates for patrons to use for various job situations, including food service, retail, etc. These templates can be used by all staff assisting patrons with resumes. This will ensure consistency with the help received and also will enable patrons to complete their resumes independently and feel a greater sense of accomplishment.
Local History, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs
The major event for March was the Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Community Dialogues. After nearly a year of planning, the Dialogues brought 72 people (speakers and attendees) together for a series of discussions about the history of Rochester’s LGBTQ community presented through the lens of archival materials. Topics included marriage equality, Rochester’s response to the AIDS epidemic, and the evolution of the gay liberation movement over time. The event was well-received, and plans are developing to make the Dialogues, in some format, a regular event in coming years. In the evening, 107 people gathered at the Memorial Art Gallery for a banquet to honor those who have funded, housed, and contributed archival materials related to Rochester’s LGBTQ community. Historical Resources Consultant Christine Ridarsky accepted an Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues Humanities Archival Recognition certificate on behalf of the Local History & Genealogy Division.

Community Outreach/Meetings
• The High Falls Interpretive Center & Museum opened for the Spring season on March 3. The center is open weekends only until June, when our five-day Summer schedule begins. The Center had 161 visitors in March; Amy Pepe led one group tour.
• The traveling woman suffrage exhibition, Because of Women Like Her...Winning the Vote in New York State, was on display this month at Pittsford Community Library, The Little Theatre, Mendon Public Library, and the LeRoy V. Good Library at Monroe Community College (Brighton campus). By all accounts, it has been very well received at these various locations.
• Historical Researcher Michelle Finn assisted staff from the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) in applying for a John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. The application focused on the work Finn, Ridarsky, and FFRPL staff did in conjunction with the commemoration of New York State’s 2017 Suffrage Centennial, with specific focus on the exhibition hosted at Central Library June 2-October 14, 2017. Awards of $10,000 will be presented to up to eight recipients at an annual reception during the American Library Association’s annual conference in June.
• The staff of the Rochester History Journal is preparing two articles for publication this Spring and Summer. Pepe, who serves as the journal’s editorial assistant, completed preliminary editing of two articles and sent them to the Editor (Ridarsky) and Assistant Editor (Finn) for final review and editing. We expect to forward both articles to the Graphics Department in mid-April to early-May. Several other articles are under review by the editorial board.
• Ridarsky showed the film Rediscovering Frederick Douglass and spoke on the Douglass bicentennial celebration to a large, attentive audience at Wellness on Wednesdays at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Webster.
• Finn attended the ROC the Riverway community forum hosted at Monroe Community College’s Downtown Campus. This forum was part of a committee-led initiative seeking input on how to apply development funds from the state to enhance access to, use of, and appreciation for the Genesee River, focusing on three key sections running from High Falls to south of Corn Hill Landing. The Central Library is an important stakeholder in this project.
• Ridarsky continued to represent the City and library on the Rochester Olmsted Online Committee, which is planning a project to develop an online catalog of archival materials documenting Rochester’s Frederick Law Olmsted-designed parks.
• Ridarsky represented the City, the library, and the Douglass200 Planning Committee at a meeting of the Visitor’s Industry Council of VisitRochester, where she presented a brief overview of Douglass’s life and legacy in Rochester.
• Ridarsky met with Carolyn Vacca, Monroe County Historian and president of the Rochester Historical Society, to discuss the historical society’s current status and future.
• Ridarsky submitted an application to Humanities New York for a Vision Grant to fund a series of planning meetings for a proposed 2019 exhibit to commemorate 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising that spurred the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement.
• Finn and Ridarsky met with Elizabeth Call, the new Special Collections Outreach Librarian at the University of Rochester Libraries, to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

• Finn met with four fourth-grade teachers from the Pittsford School District who were using the division’s resources to develop a lesson plan on Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony (March 28). With support from Pepe and substitute Librarian Christopher Brennan, Finn connected the teachers with a number of primary sources to support their work. Realizing the potential for a mutually beneficial relationship, Finn and one of the teachers plan to work together in the near future to develop educational content for Rochester Voices.

Digital Projects

• Finn continued to work with Mason Digital on migrating the Rochester Voices website over to WordPress (with Ridarsky, and Mary Royce and Mary Jane Wright from Library Automation Services). The new website is scheduled to be launched by April 10; there will be no anticipated interruption in access, as LAS staff was able to extend hosting services with the current provider to cover this period.

• Preparation for mounting of our digital Frederick Douglass newspaper collection continues. Part-time Library Assistant Dr. Emily Morry has now reviewed each of the 2,020 pages of our digitized North Star, Frederick Douglass Paper, and Douglass’ Monthly collection. She noted each page that will require re-scanning (due to errors, illegibility, etc…). She also took note of all the missing pages. In total, she has identified 96 pages that will need correction. These issues stem from the poor condition of the original documents when they were microfilmed and the physical deterioration of the microfilm itself. This 4-percent re-scan rate is very good considering these factors. We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to preserve these items in digital form now, before our film deteriorates further.

Social Media

Staff from the Local History & Genealogy Division contributed content for seven (7) social media posts in March: two (2) on Twitter, four (4) on Facebook, two (2) Facebook Events, and one (1) blog entry on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. The reach of these posts was 4,555. This includes 1,906 on Facebook, 1,223 on Twitter, and 1,426 on our blog; 64 people engaged with local history posts on Facebook and 24 on Twitter. Blog posts garnered 46 “Likes” and six (6) clicks. Our blog entry, “The Liberators: Frederick Douglass and Daniel O’Connell,” was written by substitute librarian Chris Brennan.

Anecdotes /Other

The 17 collections transferred from the Out Alliance to RPL since 2016 played a key role the success of the Rainbow Dialogues. Our keynote speaker for the Dialogues was Franklin Robinson, of the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History. A noted specialist in LGBTQ history and archives, Mr. Robinson toured our special collections during lunch on the 24th. He was impressed with our work here, and praised our attention to order, detail and cleanliness, along with the skill displayed in finding appropriate ways to describe the LGBTQ collections.

Volunteer/Intern hours

Docents from the Rochester Genealogical Society volunteered 12 hours in March and assisted 3 patrons. It should be noted that one of these seasoned researchers spent over 4 hours with a single patron. This investment of time highlights the essential role these volunteers occupy in the ecology of our division. In addition, we were assisted by two volunteers (Susan Potera – 1.75 hours; Nancy Martin – 10.5 hours), three college interns (Karen “Kaye” Knoll, RIT – 6 hours; Diana Batchelor, SUNY Brockport – 40 hours; Samantha Bradley, SUNY Brockport – 29 hours), and one intern from Lifetime Assistance (Ben Mitchell – 13 hours). In all, volunteers and interns contributed over 112 hours of service to the division.
Reynolds Media Center, Joe Born reporting

Statistics
- **Reference** - During March, RMC handled 1,570 reference questions and 452 non-reference transactions for a total of 2,022.
- **Hoopla** - Hoopla circulations in March totaled 1,031: (275 Movies/TV, 391 Audiobooks, 104 Music, 160 eBooks, 101 Comics.) 340 patrons used the service during March with 39 new users registering. Average cost was $2.03/item.
- **Door Count** - In March, RMC’s door count averaged 466/day during the week. Wednesday and Monday nights from 6-8:30pm averaged 62 people. The door count on Fridays between 5pm and 6pm was the busiest we have seen with an average of 46 in that last hour.

Science and History - Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Meetings
Jennifer Byrnes continues her work on the NYLA Community Change Agent (CCA) Cohort. For the CCA project, Jennifer and Chad Rieflin, her counterpart from Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester (CCCSR), are planning a pilot project based on a New York Public Library (NYPL) model wherein financial counselors have office hours at the library to help people create budgets and stick to them. CCCSR will need to decide how many hours a counselor will be on site per week. The Library Resource Outreach Center (LROC) will be where meetings are held. To learn more about the NYPL model: [https://www.nypl.org/help/getting-oriented/financial-literacy/counseling](https://www.nypl.org/help/getting-oriented/financial-literacy/counseling)

Programs
- Medical Student Vishal Pradhu was stationed at Central for the month-long Community Health Improvement Course. Vishal did health screenings, translated documents into Spanish, and answered patron questions such as “how is food digested, in detail?” Vishal will start an Emergency Medicine residency in New York City in July. He will be missed! He served 36 people.
- LROC served 78 patrons. As of the time this report was submitted, Volunteer Legal Service Project served 5.
- The Mobile Dental Unit was at Central once in March; the unit broke down, preventing the usual second visit.
- “My Plate” and “Sugar” - Michelle Weiler, an Eat Smart Nutrition educator from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, set up informational tables to discuss nutrition facts.
- Got Health: “Healthy Eating When You’re Gluten Free” – Presented by Zoe Mahlum, clinical dietician from the Center for Community Health & Prevention.
- “The Benefits of Mindfulness” - Presented by Rhea Zweifler, LCSW. Mindfulness involves living in the present.

Outreach
- Jennifer Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh attended the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) monthly luncheon at Oak Hill Country Club to promote the Chester Carlson Patent & Trademark Center and business resources available at Central. Attendee Don Pophal, Adjunct Faculty as a Guide in the Multidisciplinary Senior Design program in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and a Team Coach in the Simone Center for Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), believes there’s real potential for collaboration between Central and RIT.
- Kate Meddaugh travelled to the Mendon Public Library to teach people about the resources of the Carlson Patent & Trademark Center as well as Intellectual Property and how to protect it. A patent agent was one of the students, and she said Kate Meddaugh did “an excellent job.” A patent agent has the same abilities as a patent attorney with the exception that they can’t represent someone in the US Patent and Trademark Office court.
• Jennifer presented at The Entrepreneur’s Network Boot Camp about business and Carlson Patent & Trademark Center resources. They are keeping her very busy.

• Alla Levi spoke about library services and programs to the group Neighbors as Partners. Neighbors as Partners is set up through the Greater Rochester Community of Churches Faith and Action Network. It's a monthly program that brings seniors together with each other and the services they need.

• Steve Nash attended a Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20 meeting at the Italian American Sports Club and brought along copies of the book *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien. Steve spoke to someone who does outreach to incarcerated veterans and they took extra copies to bring to inmates. It is hoped that the idea of providing incarcerated veterans with books they can relate to, written by veterans, will grow.

• Steve Nash attended a presentation of the Genesee Valley Treasure Seekers ([www.gvts.org](http://www.gvts.org)) at the Greece Historical Society and Museum. They discussed their Metal Detecting Club and showed examples of treasures they found, including coins dating from the 1700s and 1800s, and other artifacts from a French army camp in the Finger Lakes. Plans are in progress to have a similar program at the Central Library later in 2018.

• Steve Nash attended “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” at the Roger Robach Community Center to celebrate the first anniversary of the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 that established March 29th as The National Vietnam War Veterans Day. County Executive Dinolfo was in attendance and Steve informed her of the Vietnam Learning Center and thanked her and her administration for their support of veterans and the Central Library. Steve and the other veterans present received a Certificate of Appreciation and a pin in recognition of their military service and post war contributions to the Rochester community.

**Consulting**

• Jennifer Byrnes and Patricia Uttaro spoke with the City of Austin, TX about the Library Resource Outreach Center (LROC) and other services for the homeless.

• The Carlson Patent & Trademark Center’s Kate Meddaugh assisted 19 people with intellectual property needs this month: 10 in person, 7 by phone, and 2 by email. This does not include the number of questions answered; this is individual patron interactions.

• Due to increased marketing of the Center, we have seen an increase in usage. We project personal patron interactions will most likely continue to increase for the remainder of the year.

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Three gentlemen who have used the Carlson Patent & Trademark Center resources recently came in this morning to be trained by Mike Dermody, Account Executive at IP.com. Mike is the one holding the sign, and he spent three hours with us discussing the powerful marketing analysis capabilities of Innovation Q, the database we subscribe to. Between the use of this database, a landscape marketing study for technologies my customers are interested in (which includes patents their competition holds), a patentability search, and a consultation, we estimated that we saved these gentlemen $14,000 by having them use the resources of the Carlson Patent & Trademark Center. Not to mention, one of the gentlemen is interested in giving back to the library monetarily. No promises were made, but he is very grateful for these resources.

Some special thanks go to Sally Snow, who was able to meet these gentlemen this morning, and hear their stories.

**Exhibits**

A press conference was held to announce the opening of the Giant Colon exhibit, which was on display March 1st through 5th. A lot of positive feedback was received around this. There was a 27% increase in visits to the library during that time.

**Anecdotes**

The Division received an “Ask a Librarian” email from an 8th grade student who is studying earthquakes, specifically the “Great Earthquake” of 1857 in Naples, Italy. This is significant because it was the first time that observational seismology, developed by Robert Mallet, was used. Jennifer Byrnes and Steve Nash divided and conquered. Jennifer was able to find an article about the earthquake in the *NY Times* that described the aftermath and how people were affected. Steve found other relevant articles and resources, including Mallet’s original publication. Steve also provided tips on how to conduct research. The parent of the student emailed back with a very grateful thank you for the information provided and that her daughter was excited about doing further research!

**Branch Library Updates**

*Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting*

**Facilities Branch and Operations Plan Update**

Hester Street’s first initial visit was March 12 and March 13. Hester Street conducted an internal staff/library affiliates work session and key interviews from members of local and community organizations. On March 13, they toured the Winton, Maplewood, Douglass and Lincoln branch libraries to understand the physical sites, programmatic and operational issues. Hester Street will return on April 23 and April 24 to discuss research, conduct focus groups, meet with RPL Facilities staff, solicit patron and staff surveys.

**Public Library Association Conference, March 2018**

I attended the PLA Conference from March 20-24. This was my first time attending the conference and I was very excited to get some new ideas and meet new people. Most of the sessions I attended discussed library programs and services that already exist at RPL. I was proud that we are on target with library trends across the nation. One session that I was really interested in was *Community as Collaborator*. This session examined participatory
experiences in the library, those that put the user in charge of their learning and exciting ways to create meaningful connections for the community. Learn strategies to facilitate and scale programs and spaces for your patrons no matter your library’s size by leveraging trends to inspire your community to take ownership of library experiences. The objectives for the session included: deconstruct traditional methods of programming relevant to their community, identify actions steps to start incorporating participatory elements and evaluate participatory experiences and their impact on the community. As I become acclimated to Rochester and community organizations, I feel it necessary to collaborate with each other and set common goals. I’ll be participating in a monthly call with other public libraries to share ideas on how to make a deeper impact with our patrons. I attended the following programs: Developing a Data-Driven Staff Training Program, Data-Driven Decision Making, Making Digital Inclusion a Priority in Your Community and Beyond the Turnstile: Toward Richer Models for Impact Assessment. I also visited the exhibits hall while at the conference.

Community Initiatives

Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) Service Provision Work Group - The group supports RMAPI’s goal of reducing poverty by stabilizing families through the development of a coordinated, person-centered system that improves outcomes through integrated, data-driven social service provision. We are using a theory of change model to accomplish the work.

School #57 Visit – Outreach Librarian Shamika Fusco and I did storytime at #57 school for Read Across America Day. This picture captures them singing “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!”

In addition to the School 57 visit, Fusco also attended the Black Heritage Gala and staffed a table where she gave away books to patrons that stopped by.

Fusco also attended the Black Women’s Book Festival at Wheatley, which was a great event. Many local authors came as well as people from the community.
Charles Settlement House - Pasta Community Lunch - March 18, 2018
As a Board Member for the Charles Settlement House, I had the opportunity to participate and serve food for the event, along with RPL Trustee Glenn Gardner! It was great to meet people and promote the library. The sauce was fantastic!!

AmeriCorps Update - AmeriCorps member C. Lattuca assisted Sarah Lydon in hosting the Money Matters Book Club program at the Maplewood Library.

The AmeriCorps team continues to work hard and interact with a large number of people throughout their service area. Throughout March, the cohort assisted with 46 story times with 567 attendees, assisted 41 individuals with job searching, resume development, tax assistance, computer use and held 17 special programs with 212 attendees. This month brings our Year 3 attendance total up to 173. I am happy to report that the surveys and assessments we have received back from programs report that 85% of the attendees show an increase in knowledge or confidence in their knowledge on financial literacy from the programming.

Safe To Be Smart Program, Derrick Coley reporting
The Arnett site: Shetora Banks collaborated with FiberArt Inc. on a display of quilted artwork examples for the teens to enjoy. They showed the teens keepsake pieces on their tablets and had the teens download some of the apps. The teens were able to personalize the pictures in the apps to their own designs. FiberArt has more workshops planned with Banks and the Arnett teens on stitching. Banks chaperoned a group of teens to the Disney movie a “Wrinkle in Time,” starring Oprah Winfrey. The movie was about time travel and the teens said they would time travel if they could control the whole experience. Banks has been assisting teens with the City’s Summer of Opportunity applications and work permits.

The Phillis Wheatley site: Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford honored St. Patrick’s Day with a Mix and Mingle. The youth made Shamrock shakes and ate Shepherd’s Pie. Bostick-Beckford chaperoned a group of teens to dinner for etiquette training. She had a Spring Kick-Off celebration with an Easter egg hunt, pizza and in-house movies. Bostick-Beckford provides teens with Summer of Opportunity application and work permit application assistance.

The Maplewood site: Mark Dixon lost his father who was 100 years old in March, and our condolences went out to him. Dixon has been supporting a large contingent of teens from Aquinas High School and City schools doing
homework during out-of-school time. The teens work on laptops and utilize desktop computers in the teen space. Dixon has been aiding teens applying for Summer of Opportunity jobs and printing out work permit applications for teens without one. Dixon has been letting teens know where to get physicals to validate work permits.

The Lincoln site: Vera Haygood continues to provide ongoing assistance for teens with Internet usage, email account set-up, and FAFSA financial aid forms for college. Haygood has assisted an artistic teen with a school project on the Holocaust by providing ample computer time and library resources. She collaborated with Experience Fiber Art Inc. Julie and other staff from Fiber Art conducted a live demonstration for the teens showing them how using fabric can create memorable keepsakes. Haygood has assisted teens with Summer of Opportunity online applications and work permits daily. She recruited teens to collaborate with YA/Librarian Jacob Bigelow on Pi Day activities. Bigelow had students recite numbers of Pi (3.14 and beyond). The prize went to the student that recited the most correct numbers of Pi.

The Sully site: George Carter facilitated a teen reading on the book called “Wonder.” The teen participants read individual copies in the teen space and had an open discussion with Mr. Carter after readings took place. Carter collaborated with the R-Center to show the movie “Wonder” to the reading teen participants. Carter assisted teens with Summer of Opportunity and work permit applications.

Teen Central site: Lydia Williams-Hylton collaborated with Mr. Frey of Pathstone Corporation for a teen workshop on life skills. Mr. Frey talked with teens about education, housing, and job assistance. Six teens participated in the program with Mr. Frey. Williams-Hylton has been mentoring teens in one-to-one situations to distribute hygiene kits to them. She has been mentoring two teen volunteers and providing community services hour projects in TeenCentral for them to complete. She has been supervising the ping-pong table games for teens. The table has been active daily with teens wanting to play! Williams-Hylton had a cookie decoration competition and a guess how many game for teens on St. Patrick’s Day. Teen Talk Tuesdays focused on Autism and the death of RCSD student Treyvan Rowe.

Southside Branches Jennifer Lenio, Area Coordinator reporting

Potential Program Partnerships
I was approached by and then met with Sara Scott from the City, who would like to collaborate with RPL to offer nature-themed backpacks filled with a few books and exploratory tools on specific topics, such as trees, butterflies, insects or pollinators. The idea would be that patrons would borrow a backpack kit from a branch and use it to learn about and explore their backyard, a city park or other green space. We thought piloting this at two to three branches to start would be ideal. I think Douglass in the south would be a good location because of their collaboration with the R-Center there and their proximity to and previous programming use of Highland Park. For the north, Scott was thinking that Sully and/or Maplewood might be good choices. Scott said she would pick out the tools (binoculars, magnifying glasses etc.) for the kits if we could choose the books.

After being forwarded an email by Patty, I reached out to Larry Burnette of the Southeast Rotary who had emailed Patty about doing urban agriculture programming at Central. In thinking about where this might fit in the branches, I chose Winton as a pilot site to dovetail with their new pollinator’s garden. I set up a meeting with Larry and Pat Finnerty, the Adult Services Librarian, at Winton to discuss Larry’s ideas further. He envisions a series of programs teaching patrons how to build and use tower type gardens for growing healthy foods. Larry is very enthusiastic about teaching these skills, but he will first need to obtain grant money to fund the programs. Finnerty is very willing and excited to host these programs if the funding comes through.

Arnett, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs
RPL Outreach Librarian celebrated diversity in children’s books by putting on an outstanding program—Princess Cupcake Jones. Children enjoyed a story about Princess Cupcake Jones, decorated cupcakes, sang, danced, laughed, and played. Mrs. Shamika, the awesome librarian presenting the program, encouraged kids to bring a tutu
if they had one. Special surprise guest: Taleah, winner of 2018 Roc Awards and author of *Puppy Love*. Taleah read her book to the audience and received great feedback.

YA Librarian Katie Powell reports that the first five-week Yoga class session was successful. She was happy to see teens who were initially skeptical really open up and participate as they got more comfortable with the class and the instructor, Lynne Boucher. Lynne and her two college-aged assistants did a wonderful job of making the teens feel welcome. On the last day of the session, they got to keep their Yoga mats and a journal. The Mental Health Association and Rochester Yoga Revolution have decided to use Arnett as their site for the next four-week Yoga session as they were pleased with the attendance for this first session.

Adult Services Librarian Anne Brown reports that their March concert was a wind ensemble that included a clarinet, a bassoon, and an oboe. The performers are currently in various stages of undergraduate and graduate level study at the Eastman School of Music. They were very knowledgeable about their instruments and took the time to explain the different sounds and reeds each one makes. They also spoke about the history of how the instruments are made and that most music for woodwind ensembles has traditionally been written by French composers, because that is where these instruments are manufactured. The audience seemed to really enjoy learning about the history in between songs, and performers fielded questions and interacted with the audience very well.

Brown’s March Craft Workshop participants had a blast making burlap bunny door hangers. They loved the alternative to hanging a wreath for spring, and the project ended up being very simple to complete. While they were working, the participants enjoyed conversation and got creative with how they made and decorated with bows and raffia. All the participants are interested in attending more adult craft workshops, so Brown took their contact information to add to her growing email list.

**Community Outreach/Meetings**
I attended a project fair at John Walton Spence School and played a book guessing game based on characters and places featured on murals found inside and outside of the Arnett Branch Library. The game allowed me to talk about books and provide library information to kids and grownups that passed the library table.

The Genesee Valley Little League expressed their gratitude for Arnett being a sign-up site again this season. The head of the league was very pleased with the support we gave and by the number of kids and volunteer coaches who signed up at the library.
Anecdotes/Other
For several days we had a big, candy-filled jar on our front desk. Children and adults tried to guess the number of jelly beans in the jar in the hopes of winning it. When I called the winner on the phone, he was very excited to hear he had won. I think I could hear his family cheering in the background. The entry form also asked guessers to name one of their favorite books. This led to some excited, fun, and interesting impromptu book discussions between patrons and staff and among patrons themselves. Favorite books ranged from The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss to The Path Between the Seas by David McCullough. Jelly bean guesses ranged from 80 to 2,000,000. The contest may have resulted in a bit of fibbing by one 9-year-old patron. After spending a ridiculously long time trying to figure out how many jelly beans were in the thing, he noticed he had to write down a favorite book. After staring for several seconds at me with a deer-in-the-headlights type look, the kid rallied. He spun around looking wildly in all directions and then darted to and from the new adult non-fiction section of the library. Evidently, this kid’s favorite book is Start Your Own Etsy Business by Jason R. Rich.

One of Brown’s regular Computer Tutor patrons is continuing to make great progress. She recently showed interest in wanting to learn proper typing technique, so Brown helped her do some research on various free and paid typing software that she could try. She decided to purchase a copy of Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing from Amazon. Brown helped her complete the order and download the software. She has just started working through the lessons but is already doing very well! She plans to continue working through the lessons and practicing at home every night.

Douglass, Erin Clarke reporting
Programs
Youth Services Librarian Sarah Ngo reports that Cara Rager joined them once again for WXXI Science Friday—a fun afternoon of science. Rager brought two tubs filled with recycled tissue boxes, paper towel rolls, tape, and marbles. They broke into teams of three or four and were to create a marble track using these materials, but no scissors. This was quite a challenge for many of their younger ones. They really thought about what to do and asked some great questions. Many had successfully made a track that worked, but some of them did not. It was a lot of fun, though. The parents enjoyed seeing the creativity of different ages in action. Total Participation: 33

Ngo held two raffles this month for Harry Potter postcard coloring books. In total, she had 219 raffle slips filled out between the two books. This was awesome! She has a core group of kids who love Harry Potter and act out scenes from the movie or take online quizzes when they visit. Some might say they are obsessed. It is wonderful to see young ones so active in reading still. Total Participation: 219

Anecdotes/Other
Ngo said that this month's sad passing of a School #12 student, Trevyan Rowe, brought a lot of emotions out in the students. She sat with many of her older kids and asked them how they were, discussing anything that they wanted in a quiet, small group. She let all the kids know that they could talk to her one-on-one, if they wanted. The school psychologist at #12 School is a father to one of our after-school visitors. Ngo asked him for some pointers on how to talk with the kids in this difficult time. He gave her some information from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network on how to facilitate conversations with kids on trauma and emotions. She told him that if the school needed anything, to please reach out.
Monroe, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs
Musical Monday: March 19th – Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra performed under the direction of Doug Stone. This was a huge success! About 23 members of the orchestra came and performed a variety of jazz tunes. We had 64 people attending this concert. We had to bring up chairs from the children’s room to accommodate the number of people. Sitting back in the biography section was Gap Mangione, quietly enjoying the concert. The orchestra played a number of his songs. The next day, Doug told me the students and parents loved this space and the opportunity to play at Monroe. A special event!

Francis Parker #23 School Visit: This month’s school-library visit included a visit from the school nurse, a pediatric dental hygienist, a speech therapist, and Foodlink. Children’s Librarian Margaret Paige said they had a great story time to go with the “Healthy Habits” theme. They read the chant-style book *Rah, Rah, Radishes!* had a goofy singalong that included “Brush Your Teeth,” and kept them engaged with her ukulele accompaniment to the food color song “I Eat a Rainbow Every Day.” They have one more visit in June, and it’s hard to believe that this group will be moving up to Kindergarten at the end of summer. The June visit is going to be extra-special, since they will all start at the school and participate in a story walk between the school and the Monroe Branch.

Children’s Book Week: Paige also reports that promoting programs and voting for book finalists for Children’s Book Week has begun. Voting started on March 1st and runs through May 6th. Children’s Book Week (April 30th – May 6th) will include special story time programs at the library, crafts, and, of course, voting! Children’s Room staff members have been talking with patrons about the programs and the voting for most of March, and many families have checked out the titles to read and pick their favorite.

Anecdotes/Other
Monroe’s new YA Librarian started in March. Rebecca Hudson has both public librarian experience and school library experience. In addition, she worked as the editor of a newspaper and is pretty tech savvy. We are excited to see how she uses her talents at Monroe!

Several weeks ago, I received a call from a high school student who wanted to do his community service at Monroe. At the time, I did not recognize his voice. Later that same day, this student came in to the library to complete a volunteer application. I was covering the children’s room when he came in. He walked up to the desk and said “Hi, I’m Grant.” I looked at his face and said, “Grant! Are you the one that called?” Yes, he replied. I couldn’t believe it. This was the little boy I had known since he was 6 years old. He and his brother had been in our summer reading clubs and our reader’s theater clubs. He was so tall and grown up. He wanted to do his community service at Monroe because of all the good memories he had here. Grant’s words not mine. So, Grant is volunteering here. You never realize fully the impression we leave with the children who cross our path.
Wheatley, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs
Wheatley once again partnered with the Rochester Genesee Valley Club of the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. to host the 4th Annual Black Women’s Book Festival. The festival was well attended by the community. It keeps getting bigger each year. This year, a children’s component was offered. We had 2 children’s authors in attendance and the kids could also make a book to take home.

Children’s Librarian Alexandra Haehn celebrated National Pi Day with a project where you make a city skyline with Legos but in the number of Pi, 3.14 and so forth. It was a fun way of learning about what Pi is and to combine number skills and building blocks.

Saint Patrick Food Fun was extremely fun. They had a mixed group of children and adults. Haehn thinks the best part about it was that all the children wanted her to try something that they had made. All of them left with full bellies and full of sugar.

Community Outreach/Meetings
Haehn’s first story time at the Community Child Care Center was amazing. She had a group of ten three-year-olds. They all really enjoyed dancing to the Penguin Song and answering her questions on both Penguin books. After the story time, she received hugs from all of them. During the second story time, they read about ducks and spring. All the children asked her if she was coming back and also asked that she bring dinosaur books. Haehn will be taking story time to the Center twice a month going forward.

Anecdotes/Other
Our new PT librarian, Alexis Lawrence, started in March. Lawrence is starting a book club in April and has lots of good ideas for programming, including having the SWAN band back in June and a Health Fair in September.

Winton, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs
For this month’s book discussion, Adult Services Librarian Pat Finnerty said they discussed “Molokai” by Alan Brennert. The group really enjoyed the book and had a good discussion discussing leprosy and how people were treated with this disease at the turn of the century.

Community Outreach/Meetings
Children’s Librarian Jean Slocombe reports that the preschool story time she has been providing to the pre-K class at School #46 for the past two years has always been a joy. There were 18 children in the room for her March story time. She says it is amazing how three-year-old children can capture the message and meaning of a story. One of the children, about 4 years old, took the message from one of the books she had read and encapsulated the plot, derived the abstract meaning and articulated all of it. She was stunned.

Anecdotes/Other
Finnerty was casually talking to a woman who was looking at the new books section. She was recommending some books to the patron and they were talking about books in general. She said that she had just recently lost her husband, suddenly, and that books were giving her comfort. She said her doctor recommended a book to her, but she couldn’t remember the title. She said it was written by a woman and the word “magic” was in the title. Finnerty asked her if it could be, “The Year of Magical Thinking” by Joan Didion. She lit up and said yes, that was it. Luckily, we had the book at the library. Finnerty told her that book had helped her after her mother died. She was
very thankful, and it made Finnerty so happy that she could find a book for the patron that could hopefully be of comfort to her. That was a day Finnerty said, “I’m so glad I’m a librarian.”

Y is one of those patrons who showed up here at Winton when I moved from Sully. She just showed up one day, and specifically asked for me. I gave her a hug and asked what was up? She was trying to apply for jobs and needed a lot of help. Y has always needed a lot of help. She has 3 boys; the youngest is in pre-K, and they require most of her attention. To compound this fact, she never learned computers, or spelling, or how to use technology effectively. Over the last five years, I have taught her the basics, so she now knows how to open her email on her phone, she can log in to a computer, and log in to her email. She can semi-safely search for jobs, and even apply for a job both on her phone and online. We sat together and created a great-looking resume. But, she still needs help with wording things and filling out forms. Apparently, there isn’t anyone else she trusts, because she always comes to me. So, over the last four months, I’ve been helping her search for and apply for ‘real’ jobs. Unfortunately, she still seems to find those ones that are fraudulent while searching on her phone and applies for them. Then, my last week at Winton, she came in and needed help downloading some forms, filling them out, scanning them and sending them back to a potential employer. We did all that in fewer than fifteen minutes. She got the job.

Northside Branches Joan Lee, Area Coordinator reporting

Charlotte-Paul Tantillo reporting

In March, we had our largest turnout yet for a local history program. Joe O’Toole, Director of the Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum, discussed the possibility of Vikings having sailed in Sodus Bay. The local part was very brief. It seems an authentic Viking spearhead has been found in the sediment in Sodus Bay. How it got there is undetermined, but it was likely either lost by Viking explorers, or by Native Americans who had traded with Viking explorers in Canada. That’s about the whole story as far as the local connection goes, but O’Toole preceded that 15-minute snippet with an hour-and-a-quarter narrative of Viking exploits in Scandinavia, Iceland, Greenland, and Canada. It was a lively, engaging, and often very funny lecture and participants had a jolly good time, as well as learning more about Vikings than they ever thought they wanted to know.

We had full enrollment for the March session of our adult crafts series. We brought back Linda Bowers, egg artist, to teach the participants how to decorate eggs using alcohol inks. Bowers had done essentially the same program for us in March for teen participants, but included a few more advanced techniques for the adults. The finished product was lovely, and the participants formed a convivial community for that hour. Bowers is a model program presenter. She’s punctual, organized and knowledgeable, and even though she brings a lot of tools and craft materials with her, she has it down to a science and sets up and breaks down the program with total efficiency. She has several other egg-decorating techniques in her repertoire, and we’ll have her back next spring to do another presentation. Her handiwork can be seen at https://www.facebook.com/JustEggsquisiteUkrainianEggs/

We have been designated by the city as a site to house an electric car charger. Installation took place during February and March. The station was completed toward the end of March. The city has some programming and inspection to accomplish on it before it can be made available to the public, but when that gets done, it’ll be operational.

On March 1st, children’s librarian Kim Whittemore scheduled a science-based activity inspired by the storybook Stranger in The Woods which focuses on nature in winter. This was a collaboration with WXXI, which provided a kit of activities. Whittemore reports “The March activity for our Science Fun for Kids series explored the wintry story book Stranger in the Woods. We read the book and followed that with hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) activities that included a word search, an animal habitat game, precut paper shapes to
form crystal structures, and boards used to form hexagonal patterns [i.e., snowflake shapes] with rubber bands. Plus, good old play dough.” This is the fourth collaboration we’ve done with WXXI, which has been providing activity kits to accompany storybooks.

Whittemore reports that she’s seeing an uptick in the number of tutors using the Children’s Room for their work. She says, “The Charlotte Children’s Room has seen an increase in the number of tutors, speech therapists, supervised visits, etc. Parents and tutors alike have commented that it is a great place, as they can keep siblings occupied during lesson time. One week this month, we had 9 tutors up here, while 2 or 3 per week would be typical in earlier months.”

**Lincoln, Jason Gogniat reporting**

**Programs**
Two separate music programs were held in March for children, led by students from the Eastman School of Music. The programs were participatory programs with kids both listening and playing the instruments included in each performance. Teen Librarian Jacob Bigelow held a Pi Day for teens to celebrate and educate teens on the significance of the number. Participants also received free pies in a contest to see who could memorize the most numbers in pi.

**Outreach**
Spanish Language and Children’s Librarian Rosa Diaz continues to stop by the Ibero-American Action League’s Centro D’oro for seniors. Diaz registered several more of the seniors for library cards and promoted the library’s Spanish computer classes. Many of the patrons are fans of James Patterson, so she has been lending a large number of his books in Spanish to the seniors.

Both Diaz and Toy Library Assistant Sarah Fitts-Romig attended School #50’s Dr. Seuss and Science Family Event. Fitts-Romig also attended a Family Event at School #8 and assisted with professional development sessions at School #7.

**Anecdotes/Other**
Lincoln has submitted to once again participate in Foodlink Summer Meals program. We have expressed interest in again being a food truck site and are waiting to hear back from Foodlink in regard to this year’s program.

**Lyell-Pat Connor reporting**

**Programs**
The National Potato Chip Day tasting provided a challenge for all, as patrons tried to guess the flavors of several different potato chips. By far, the favorite were the Mozzarella and Marinara Ruffles; least favorite were the Cheddar and Horseradish; most unusual: Maple Bacon; and the one guessed right by most people: Original.

There was an upswing in people attending the weekly drop-in Coloring programs. One gentleman stores his works in progress in a folder which he diligently brings with him to each session. Literacy Aide Julian Santiago has a group of boys who join him regularly for after-school board games and computer games. The group has presented us with a list of games for future purchase. After sitting unused for quite a while, we have a new group of young patrons very interested in the Little Tykes computer available in the children's area.
The Music in Motion 10-week series being held in partnership with the Eastman Community Music School and the Joseph Avenue Arts and Cultural Alliance began on Saturday, March 17th. Extensive publicity was done for this program by the Alliance and the library with information being sent to schools, community centers, religious organizations and Facebook postings. From all reports, the program is a success with several students returning each week and new ones beginning.

**Anecdotes/Other**

Patricia Connor, Branch Supervisor, received the following email message from Rebecca Fuss and Ned Davis at the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library: "Hi Pat, A short and sweet note from a donor this morning, enclosed with their check: 'We love the ladies at Lyell Ave. They care!'".

**Maplewood, Johanna Buran reporting**

**Programs**

March was another busy month. The children and tweens had Lego Labs and Dominoes. Dominoes are very popular with the kids and we usually have about a dozen kids playing with them whenever we can bring them out. We also hosted our monthly Book Bingo Event which continues to be popular.

We celebrated the coming of spring by making foam shamrock magnets and scratch-to-reveal shamrocks with the kids. In preparation for the Spring Break, we colored fancy egg pictures, made carrot baskets, made egg sun catchers using clear contact paper and tissue paper, and watched the movie *Hop*.

Another popular activity was creating bracelets, rings and necklaces with pony beads, yarn and plastic lacing. The children, tweens and teens enjoyed these activities, sometimes making things for themselves and sometimes making things for their mothers or special friends. We also welcomed AmeriCorps with “A Chair for Mother” and had a visit from our four-legged friends, the Tail Waggin’ Tutors.

The children in story time learned about farm animals and their young. We made animal masks and played musical chairs to “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.” We also matched mother animals with their babies using picture tiles and talked about animal names and sounds. We also worked on our shapes and talked about the coming of spring. To celebrate spring, we made Shamrocks and colored Easter egg coloring pages. Playdough featured prominently in our March activities. It is a favorite activity with the under 5 crowd. We also used multicolored activity tiles to review our colors and to learn to hop, jump and skip.

**Community Outreach/Meeting**

Evanna DiSalvo participated in a Lakewood (Ohio) Public Library conference call with Andrea Fisher (librarian), Beth Mays and Ann Bush (ESOL teachers). They reached out to us through the library website to ask about creating a pen pal experience between our programs. The timing of our classes is such that we are unable to set up a real-time experience, but we discussed exchanging questions and making videos of answers. They are going to be on break until mid-April, at which time we will continue discussion of ways to interact.

Caitlyn Barnes visited Exploration Charter School on Lake Avenue. She visited five Kindergarten classrooms to talk about visiting the library and the proper way to treat your library materials. They read *Lola at the Library* by
Anna McQuinn and Mr. Wiggle’s Book by Paula Craig. The kids enjoyed hearing about Lola’s adventures and learning from Mr. Wiggle about how not to treat your library books. The kids also had fun coming up with other things you shouldn’t do to your library books. Some favorites were “never put boogers on your books” and “never bite your teeth on your books.” Her favorite question was “why does the library have to close at night?” A letter and library card application were sent home with each student.

Anecdotes/Other
During one citizenship class during March, DiSalvo was occupied with a student who had his test the next day. The other students just sat down and started studying together. It was a proud moment. The women are from Laos, Burma, Togo and the Congo. Three of them started working within 6 months of arriving here; the other has small children and her husband works. They had little to no formal education in their native countries. They will each be taking the exam in the next couple of months.

Sully-Maria-Heeks-Heinlein reporting
Programs
One of our Literacy Aides, Juan Santiago, worked with a librarian and the Rec Center to arrange an Easter Egg hunt. This program was a hit with the children. The weather did not cooperate, so we had to get creative with hiding eggs at the Rec Center. Chris (rec staff member) hid two special eggs of his own. The lucky winners got $5 from Chris to use towards a purchase at the store. Everyone was happy to get a few pieces of candy in all of the eggs they found.

Anecdote/Other
One Saturday afternoon, a patron entered the library and started talking to our clerk, James Mitchell, about Manga. Mitchell is a Manga expert, and many of our Manga-loving patrons know this. This patron and James had a deep conversation about Manga and Anime. After checking out several volumes of a series, the patron said “I love this library because I can always find what I want here. This library is the best kept secret in Rochester.”

Maria Heeks-Heinlein has been working with the local group of the “Buy Nothing Project” to host a freecycle event. This is where people can set up a table with things they don’t want anymore, and other people can take what they want. All items left over at the end of the event must be taken home by the person who brought them. We will be hosting this event on Saturday June 2nd in the Rec Center community rooms.

Selected Meetings & Outputs

Director Uttaro (March 13 – April 14, 2018)
Brie Harrison; Sally Snow; Ana Suro – one-to-one meetings (monthly)
Tolley Reeves – one-to-one meetings (bi-weekly)
FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
City Chief of Staff, Alex Yudelson (monthly)
City Senior Management Team (monthly)
Monroe County Assistant County Executive, Michael Molinari (monthly)
Central Library All-Staff Meeting (monthly)
MCLS Directors’ Council (monthly – April meeting held at Webster Public Library)
MCLS Mentoring phone calls with recently appointed member library director (weekly)
MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)
New York State Library – Department of Library Development conference call (monthly)
Public Library System Directors’ Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)

Don Specht & Kenneth Beaman
Central Library Supervisors
City Budget Director, Christopher Wagner; Analyst, Suzanne Warren; Brie Harrison
City Budget – Public Input Session – City Hall Atrium

City Commissioner – Department of Recreation and Youth Services, Daniele Lyman-Torres
City Council
City Council Committee Hearing
City – Library Budget Review – Mayor Warren; Budget Director, Christopher Wagner; Brie Harrison
City Prospective Auditor Interviews and Presentations (RFP Process)
County – City – Library Budget Review – Assistant County Executive, Michael Molinari; County Chief Financial Officer, Robert Franklin; Office of Management & Budget reps Kevin Klemann; Wendy Clifford; City Chief of Staff, Alex Yudelson; City Budget Director, Chris Wagner; Suzanne Warren; Brie Harrison
Henrietta Public Library Groundbreaking Ceremony
Libraries After Dark – Central Library Event Planning Team
Library Café – Potential New Operator; with Brie Harrison
Library Worker Appreciation Day
New York Library Association’s Youth Services Section (YSS) Spring Conference – Syracuse, NY
New York State Association of Library Systems (NYALS) Steering Committee Conference Call
NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) – Albany, NY
NYS Division of Library Development Director & Coordinator of Statewide Library Services, Carol Ann Desch – phone call

**Rochester Business Journal** Women of Excellence Award Ceremony – Joseph Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center
RPL Branch Libraries Facilities and Operations Plan Work Session
*Rochester Reads* – Reyna Grande event – Kate Gleason Auditorium
Writers and Books – Big Pencil Awards
Writers and Books Executive Director, Kyle Semmel
YWCA Stand Against Racism Conference – *Joseph Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center*

**Email Activity**

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