TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: March 28, 2018  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – March 2018

**Action Items**

**Naming of Art Gallery in Hacker Hall**

We are requesting that the renovated art gallery space in Harold Hacker Hall be named the “Anthony Mascioli Gallery” in honor of the benefactor whose bequest of $500,000 to the Rochester Public Library through the Friends & Foundation of RPL has made such an impact. Tony was a colorful and charismatic man; a proud Rochesterian; and a successful entrepreneur in New York City. He boldly celebrated being a gay man at a time when it wasn’t socially acceptable or safe. He provided a place for men, in and out of the closet, to socialize and find fulfillment in their identity. Most of all Tony lived his life openly with pride. Tony’s wish was that the library would use his bequest to create programs and exhibits celebrating the LGBTQ community.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of naming the Hacker Hall art gallery the Anthony Mascioli Gallery.

**Report Items**

*Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director*

**Recommended Reading/Watching**

- Libraries are a Space Where Everyone Belongs - [https://www.thenation.com/article/libraries-are-a-space-where-everyone-belongs/](https://www.thenation.com/article/libraries-are-a-space-where-everyone-belongs/)

**Upcoming Events**

- Friday April 6 – Flower City Arts Darkroom Club Exhibit Opening at the Monroe Branch (time to be determined).
- Tuesday April 10, 1:30 pm – Library Worker Appreciation Day Ice Cream Social, Central Library in BLB parking lot.
- Wednesday April 11 - RBJ Women of Excellence awards dinner, 5:30 pm at the Convention Center. I am honored to be included in the inaugural class for this award. FFRPL has purchased a table. See Ned Davis if you would like to attend.
- Friday April 13 – Writers & Books Big Pencil Awards, 6:00-9:00 pm at W&B on University Avenue. I am honored to receive this award, along with Anderson Allen, David Andreatta, Lu Highsmith, Sharon Knapp, Aceyon Owens, Shaq Payne, and the Rochester Association of Black Journalists. See [https://wab.org/event/big-pencil-awards/](https://wab.org/event/big-pencil-awards/) for tickets.
RPL Strategic Plan Progress

Education & Engagement

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester Digital Literacy Navigator Expansion – On Friday, March 7 LVR joined with Senator Joseph Robach, MCLS, the Gates Public Library, Town of Gates, and Greece Community Education to announce the expansion of LVR’s Digital Literacy program to additional locations. Thanks to Senator Robach, the program will now be available at the Lyell Branch of the Rochester Public Library, the Gates Public Library, and some Greece Community Education locations. Digital Literacy is a five-year-old program in which volunteer navigators from LVR work one-to-one with program participants and library patrons to teach basic computer skills or assist with computer-essential tasks. By the end of the 2017-18 program year, the program expects to reach nearly 4000 participants in Monroe County. There is a strong demand for this service by people who do not want to be left behind by the Digital Divide. Greece Community Education Literacy Zone also supports Digital Literacy services at their Alcott Road (Greece) center and Lyell Branch Library (Rochester) as well. All three locations are part of the Literacy Zone concept, supported by the New York State Education Department. Digital Literacy navigators currently volunteer at city libraries (Arnett, Frederick Douglass, Lincoln, Lyell, Phillips Wheatley and Sully), Greece Community Education (200 Alcott Road, Greece), Veterans Outreach Center and LVR’s main office at 1600 South Avenue, Rochester.

American Dreams Grant Update – Dennis Williams and Sarah Lydon continue to prepare for the ESOL classes funded as part of the American Dreams Literacy Initiative Grant at the Winton Branch. They have selected two tutors who will teach the classes. Melissa Parrish is currently an ESL teacher at the Maplewood Library and will extend her work by joining the program at Winton. Melinda Borshoff is an experience service provider who has volunteered as a tutor with Mercy Bridges, and will join us as the second ESOL teacher at Winton. Starting on March 10, the classes will be held Saturdays from 12:00-2:00 p.m., and Tuesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Sustainability & Resources

Advocacy Update – Assistant Director Snow and Lyla Grills (Penfield) worked together to set up a bus trip to Library Advocacy Day in Albany on February 28. The New York Library Association sponsors this day every year and the capitol is full of librarians visiting legislators and showing love for libraries. There were 1,000+ people at the noon rally. Our focus this year was asking the legislators to roll back the cuts that Governor Cuomo made to library aid in his proposed budget. The Governor proposed a cut of $10 million to Construction Aid would be particularly devastating at a time when we have a number of member library building projects in the pipeline. Getting people to go on the bus to Albany was part of our System Plan of Service under Advocacy efforts for this year. MCLS has not sent a large contingent of people to Albany for at least 10 years. I believe improved communication with friends and trustees via email campaign helped spread the word. Unfortunately, appointments with the legislators were made prior to confirmation of the bus, so the time of departure (5:00 am) was a deterrent. Next year, we will schedule appointments later in the morning, so the bus can leave at a better time (like 7:00 am). The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library generously paid for the bus and some snacks. Twenty-eight brave advocates boarded the bus and attended meetings with state legislators this year. It was a long day, but people seemed to have a good time and felt a sense of accomplishment.

March 23 Update – The Assembly’s One-House Budget proposal, released March 12, included restoration of the cut to general aid, and an increase of $50 million to library construction aid, with $25M earmarked for the three New York City Systems. The one-house bill from the Senate also included the $50M for library construction and a $6M add to general library aid. This is a good indication that our legislators are listening and acknowledging the critical importance of libraries and bodes well for the final budget.

Facility and Capital Updates: This spring will see many activities for the RPL with several construction and design projects underway or beginning in the coming months. The RPL is pleased with the City’s draft Capital Improvement Program, which included full capital project and grant match requests, and now incorporates our
requests for savings with the Winton renovation project, branch facilities and furnishings annual allocations. The final CIP will be shared with all proposed operating budget changes in May. Several project updates are as follows:

- **Rundel structural repairs, Phase IV/South Avenue:** The RPL and MCLS Boards received presentations from Bayer Landscape Architecture and LaBella Associates in February. As discussed, the City is recommending progression on the full scale of necessary structural repairs and recommended terrace enhancements for a project cost of $7.8 million. Much public discussion and input will be sought for the proposed first-phase projects of the ROC the Riverway program, from which $50 million is pledged from New York State. While the overall library work is identified as part of the Broad Street aqueduct project in plans, the Library and City Environmental Services have agreed that the library’s terrace work can stand alone as an early phase of future riverway plans; as currently communicated, design will progress with the understanding of a fall 2018 bid for the terrace project.

- **Rundel Loading Dock Replacement:** T.Y. Lin has assisted the RPL with a specialized design of a replacement for the original loading dock in the Rundel lower stacks. The dimensions and accessibility present unique challenges, but with the involvement of Gene Siembor and Frank Russo on the full design process, we are confident that the proposed solution will meet the needs of Shipping and Delivery for decades to come. The project is currently out to bid, and we anticipate work to begin in late summer 2018. The work will require the temporary relocation of Shipping for an approximate 8-week period, similar to the renovations of the Court Street terrace, likely in August-September 2018.

- **Master Space Plan Phase 4 design:** Due to vacancies and priority projects in City Environmental Services, the start of design with Edge Architecture has been delayed by a few months. We anticipate the internal team to begin meeting in March, with our first meeting with Edge by the end of the month. This final phase of the Master Space Plan will result in a Technology Center in the Bausch & Lomb lower link level.

- **Monroe Library Façade Repairs, Phase 2:** In 2008-09, a limestone restoration was conducted on three of the four exterior walls at the Monroe Branch Library, with one wall deferred due to funding shortfalls. This final phase/wall facing I-490, was designed and bid by Konopka Architecture during 2017. The work will include exterior masonry repairs and waterproofing, as well as interior plaster repairs due to water infiltration. Heaster Building Restoration was awarded the contract and we are awaiting a schedule, likely to begin in May 2018.

- **New York Power Authority (NYPA) energy efficiency program:** This fall celebrated the completion of interior and exterior lighting upgrades at the Lincoln branch library, which has substantially improved light levels in the children, adult and circulation areas. NYPA is continuing with lighting upgrades at the Charlotte Library, replacing inefficient fixtures in the basement, first and second floors. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2018.

- **Technology updates:** The FY19 round of Federal E-rate program includes bids for new network cabling at four branch libraries (Arnett, Charlotte, Lincoln, Lyell) due to cabling age and changes in technology use since original installation. Participation in a cabling bid was open to all MCLS members with cabling older than 15 years (and no plans for building renovations in the foreseeable future). These projects will receive up to 85% reimbursement, with the balance of furnish and installation costs funded at the member level. If successful, the MCLS will seek participation in the next one or more funding cycles to benefit from E-rate Category 2 funding opportunities.

### Stewardship & Curation

**Lincoln Branch Safety** - A security guard was hired temporarily for Lincoln to help monitor the illegal activities in the parking lot and the front lobby of the library. Rochester City Security and Police Department continue to be a visible presence as well. The feedback from staff is very positive, many expressing that they are relieved to have someone monitor the building and respond to any drug activities. Though staff is sympathetic about the drug crisis, they weren’t too comfortable with the thought of dealing with someone overdosing and any other negative behavior that’s a result of drug use.

**Summer Learning Collaborative Action Network** – As part of my work with Roc the Future, I have participated on a committee charged with identifying and classifying summer learning classes and programs for school-aged children. The committee has met for 6 months and has recently acquired a significant amount of information about
existing classes and programs through a community survey. The survey results will be used to create an online Program Locator which will help families find summer learning opportunities for their children no matter where they live. This has been a useful collaboration as I have had the opportunity to work with representatives from the YMCA, United Way, RCSD, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association, Boys & Girls Club, and RochesterWorks. For the first time in my experience, the educators on this committee have agreed that there is value, quantitative and qualitative, in the kinds of drop-in programs we do in libraries and R-Centers. That is a significant step forward in thinking that can only help libraries as we apply for funding to support these kinds of programs.

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

Social Media, Alicia Gunther reporting
Facebook
- Page views - 724
- New page likes – 34
- Page Reach – 30,097 people
- Post engagements – 3,720
- Checked in and mentions – 38 People
- Facebook Events Calendar
  - Individual events reached - 39,486 times.
  - Visitors went to our full events calendar - 2,767
  - 642 people engaged with the event on Facebook or linked to our MCLS page through the event
- Video Views – 4,515
- Responded to 3 messages on Facebook

Twitter
Profile Visits
- Rochester Public Library – 856
- Monroe County Library System – 336
New Followers
- Rochester Public Library – 19
- Monroe County Library System – 11
Engagements
- Rochester Public Library - 240
- Monroe County Library System - 14
Favorites
- Rochester Public Library- 103
- Monroe County Library System- 2
Mentions
- Rochester Public Library- 41
- Monroe County Library System- 32

Instagram
- New Followers – 45 (837)
- Likes – 242
- Comments on a post - 11
- Mentions – 4
- Saves- 1
- Engagements- 254
- Page visits- 59
Tumblr
- New Followers - 1
- Notes - 1

Constant Contact Newsletter
- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 1070
- Click through – 114
- New subscribers – 16

YouTube Channel
- Video views – 340
- Videos added to playlists – 5
- New subscribers – 3
- Shares - 7
- Likes - 1

Web Stories
Rochester Reads 2018
Library Advocacy Day
Visit the Giant Colon
Created a “Parking at Central” page.
Created 3 MCLS Web stories.

Art and Literature, Nancy Nugent reporting

Programs
- Date Night Chocolate Making
  The month of February brought chocolate and the beginning of the Date Night series to the Division. Lindsay Tarnoff from Laughing Gull Chocolates did a fun program for patrons where they made chocolate truffles for Valentine’s Day. Patrons brought their dates and learned about chocolate history from its beginnings to present day. Tarnoff then taught patrons how to make chocolate truffles. She brought different types of chocolate and nuts. Patrons rolled the truffles in coconut and powdered cocoa. Evaluations for this program were all positive saying that Tarnoff was a great presenter, knowledgeable, and made the class lots of fun. Some patrons said they were happy to learn truffle making as they can be expensive to buy and now they had a little gift to give to someone. All would like to see more food programs.

- Writing to Heal: A Six-Part Series
  This very popular writing class, taught by Anais Salibian, and designed to promote self-discovery and healing through journaling, poetry and storytelling, held its last class at the end of February. Due to the long wait list we had for this class, it will be held again in the fall. Says Wendy, one of our regular writing class attendees:
  “I would like to say that the writing classes offered thru the library have been and are spectacular! Personally, they have provided me the opportunity to explore my writing skills in part focused on reflection as I travel thru this final stage of my life. I’m extremely appreciative of the fact that money is available to pay the teachers and yet it is free for students. Without this, I would not be able to attend.”

- Division Blog and Literary Publication
  The Literature Blog had 5,994 views this month. Librarian Andy Coyle continues to work on Rundelania, the digital literary journal of the Division. The journal is dedicated to the publication of original poetry, short stories and essays by the patrons of the library and had 105 views this month. Coyle is assembling the May 2018 issue of Rundelania and receiving quotes for the first annual print edition to be published in June 2018.
Community Outreach:

- Carol Moldt continues discussion with Lifespan’s Older Adult Center regarding Central Library hosting some programs and classes onsite at the center. Ideas on the table currently include introductory computer classes, ukulele classes, local history presentations, and book discussion groups.
- Carol Moldt attended a meeting at WXXI on February 23rd. WXXI is applying for a grant from PBS to offer community programs in conjunction with an upcoming multi-episode PBS documentary called *The Great American Read*. Libraries are a natural partner to WXXI on this, and they are interested in hosting the screening event and other reading-related programs at Central Library.

Business & Social Sciences, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs

- Linda Halliburton and Sarah Bishopp Velez hosted the City of Rochester’s Biz Kids campers for a morning session in the Division. Biz Kids is a five-day program for City students to learn the basics of what is involved in starting a business along with a final presentation of their business plans to practice confident public speaking in front of a panel. There is a competition element to Biz Kids with prizes. They set up materials to help the Biz Kids write their business plans under the supervision of Program Coordinator Kirmani Scott, Lead Instructor Jeff Reese of the City’s Department of Recreation and Youth Services, and Lead Instructor Chad Rieflin from the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester. Ten former Biz Kids campers were also present to serve as role models and helpers.
- The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Free Tax Filing Assistance staff has been very busy assisting people file their taxes and answer clients’ questions. There are three NYS DTF FSA Tax Assistance staff members here to provide assistance to people to file their 2017 individual income taxes. They have six laptops to provide for people to use to file their taxes and they use their own Wi-Fi. Wednesday, February 7th was extremely busy for the NYS DTF FSA Tax Assistance staff and they worked past their regularly scheduled hours until 6:30 p.m. that day. Many of the clients served know of this program from previous years. This is the fourth year the Central Library’s Business and Social Science Division is partnering with NYS DTF FSA Tax Assistance Program. Overall patrons are pleased and appreciate that this program is offered and here. The NYS DTF FSA Tax Assistance staff work so well with people; they are professional, kind and patient with their clients. Our partnership with the NYS DTF tax assistance staff works very well.

Grants Assistance

- Darlene Richards met with two people from Rochester Free Radio. This is a non-profit radio station that provides discussions on a variety of topics, such as drug addiction and political activism. Richards gave them an orientation to the Grant Resource Center, the Foundation Directory Online and other websites that focus on grant seeking.
- Richards met with the wife of the conductor of the Madrigalia Chorus. Cary Ratcliff has been the conductor of the chorus for four years. The Madrigalia is a twenty-voice premier chorus and has been in existence since the 1970’s. They are looking for grants for developing programs and hiring instrumentalists. Richards gave her an orientation of the Grants Resource Center and the Foundation Directory Online. Darlene instructed her on how to focus her search and e-mailed her several possible Foundation profiles. Marjorie stated she thought this was a wonderful service and never knew the library had such a resource.

Consulting

it was a busy month for Linda Halliburton as she consulted with individuals referred to her from SCORE and the Urban League for industry and market research related to writing their business plans. Individuals had the following business ideas: solo home health care nurse, special events popcorn vendor, juice/smoothie bar, barber shop, recording studio, exterior snow melting system installer, Islamic modest dress e-commerce, cleaning device sales, and real estate investing.

Anecdotes

- An RIT student, who was working on a student group project, contacted the Division to inquire if he could obtain four IbisWorld industry reports from us for his group project. RIT does not subscribe to the
IbisWorld database of industry reports, but he learned that the Central Library’s Business & Social Sciences Division did. Linda Halliburton emailed the four requested reports to him, a retail value of more than $3600 if the reports were purchased directly from IbisWorld. The RIT student was very appreciative. The IbisWorld database is a heavily used one for Central Library’s small business customers writing business plans and college students working on projects. It is always a pleasure to assist students, who are working hard to get that “A” on their college projects.

- Recently, two former small business customers connected with Linda Halliburton to share the outcomes of their business idea research. These were two small business customers with two different outcomes—both good.
- Nick was interested in starting an eating establishment, and he had some relevant experience to do so. Linda suggested that Nick connect with a local retired restaurateur and former SCORE advisor for advice and guidance. Weeks later, Nick shared with Halliburton that he contacted the retired restaurateur, and he thanked her for the referral. The restaurateur was working with Nick on finalizing a restaurant space lease, and his guidance had been invaluable to Nick. Recently, Halliburton saw an article in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle newspaper about Nick, his partner, and their restaurant, which will open soon. Now, Halliburton is pleased that she will be keeping the promise she made to Nick that she and her husband will be visiting the restaurant for dinner.
- Florence Morris had a patron ask for a book: Each one Teach One-362.5092 C335e. The patron told Morris that he wanted to read the book in order to help out other people. He stated that he had been homeless since he was fifteen. The patron lives and works at the House of Mercy. Morris gave him the book and told him about the Library Outreach Center, Nurse Barb and the mobile dental unit. He said he would pass along the information.
- Florence Morris did extensive research for a staff member from City Councilman Mitch Gruber’s office. She sent the staff member information from various government websites, organizations, and articles from the Business and Social Sciences internal databases and explained how to access the MCLS databases.

Children's Services Consultant, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Take your Child to the Library Day! The Annual MCLS Take Your Child to the Library Day was celebrated throughout Central Library. Library Assistant Jennifer Cesare planned and facilitated this library wide event, *Become a Citizen of the World*, with each division. Patrons traveled to each department of the library and used their “passport” stamped for every activity.
- Curious George stopped by for Meet and Greet with some friends from WXXI. Patrons had a chance to take a selfie with him and enjoyed stories, a variety of crafts, and each child received a gift from Curious George.
- The first Tech-sploring program was held. Patrons interested in video game design were given a chance to explore Bloxels, a popular coding tool. Exposing children to technology has become increasingly important. We are launching this program to help children become comfortable and comprehend emerging technologies. These skills are a key advantage in the workplace.
- The story Stranger in the Woods by Carl Sams was the focus for the February WWXI/Central Library Exploration Station. There were several stations for families to visit and learn about science and math. Snowflake shapes were created from 2D shapes using correct symmetry; Snowflake Geo-boards were used by the children to create snowflakes on geoboards with rubber bands; Cereal Birdfeeders were created as a take home craft; homemade play dough was made and used to create snowmen; Animals in Winter Dice Game was made for children in which they rolled a habitat die and recorded the matching animal on a graph; woodland animals toys were out for free play time; and
families had a great time exploring the second floor to complete the word search. This is the first session that we created a kit to share with member libraries. The Charlotte Branch Library was the first to test this.

Raising a Reader
Amy McLean attends bi-monthly socializations at ABC Headstart to offer a Baby/Toddler Storytime and simple literacy tips to families. At a past socialization, McLean mentioned the library VIP passes. Krystal (pictured below) checked out a VIP pass for the Rochester Museum and Science Center and took her three daughters. Krystal’s kindergartener is “fascinated by natural disasters” and on the day they visited RMSC there was a special guest doing a presentation on tsunamis. Krystal said, “She sat through the whole presentation and was the kid asking all the questions at the end.” Krystal plans to take her daughter to the Susan B. Anthony house next with a VIP pass. Raising a Reader gives us the opportunity to teach families not only literacy skills, but ways that they can utilize the library and its resources.

Outreach/Community Contacts
- Miranda Hazen and Kathy Wolf provided storytimes to ten classes at the MetroCenter Young Men’s Catholic Association (YMCA). Hazen also provided storytimes to three age groups at TLC Adventures in Childcare.
- Burton attended a Family Literacy event to celebrate the birthday of Clifford the Big Red Dog at the Rochester City School District Early Childhood Center. We signed up over 50 children for library cards.
- Burton partnered with Rochester Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder to offer their clients a Technology Petting Zoo. This is the first program we will be collaborating on as we work to help individuals with Autism and other disabilities are more comfortable accessing library resources. Staff from the Center will also be providing training for our staff on inclusive programming.
- Burton, Hazen, and Wolf attended the MCLS Children’s Services meeting at the Parma Library. Burton trained staff on Everyone Serves Families with Young Children in the Library. Burton presented the same training for the staff at East Rochester Public Library. Library Director Meredith Fraser invited Burton to help staff work though patron issues they have been having.

Teen Central, Xandi DiMatteo & Melora Miller reporting

Programs
- We supported Take Your Child to the Library Day (or as we like to think of it, Future Teenagers) with activities for all ages. Melora Miller had a VERY popular visual scavenger hunt and word search that sparked conversations about Australian animals, and Xandi DiMatteo brought in a Didgeridoo for musically brave patrons to try.
- Love Yourz brought a former Teen Central teen, slam poetry performer, and youth mentor Chi The Realist to host a slam poetry program. He was awesome, and with his connection to teens and arts in the community, drew a crowd. We love seeing our former teens soar into adulthood!
- Souper Soup and Side was a rescheduled cooking program. Teens were taught how to make basic chicken soup with rice, garlic bread, and Caesar salad. The ingredients were fresh, easy to find, and inexpensive. We had young ladies pulling meat off rotisserie chicken, teens sautéing onions + garlic + spices, young men using sharp paring knives to chop carrots & celery - everyone had a task! We had conversations about family cooking, cultural cooking, and cooking as a lifelong skill for personal & professional well-being. We talked about nutrition, different healthy ways to eat (vegetarian & vegan), and future culinary education. Not all literacies are on a shelf, some are great life skills.
imagineYOU, John Hylton reporting

Youth Video Productions - The youth video productions are videos that were shot by teens and are in the process of being edited by them. The ImagineYOU lab and its youth volunteers are helping teach teens how to edit their videos and sharing techniques in the production of several types of videos. We have youth who are doing music videos, vlogs and interviews, for example the video link below is one type of video that teens are working on. The video is of a race between a teen named Nate who challenged his mentor Chi from Champion Academy. It was a fun challenge because teens from the library came outside to view and record the race. It was an exciting and new experience that had the youth interested in editing the video.

https://www.facebook.com/jahylton/videos/10215671550078984/

A Gamers Nostalgia Podcast - Christopher Williams the owner of A Gamers Nostalgia visited imagineYOU to shoot a video podcast with teens from the library. They discussed many topics including diversity in the gaming industry and the impact of gaming in their lives. imagineYOU and AGN will produce a video podcast every Tuesday for Facebook and YouTube.

This is a link to the ImagineYOU & AGN podcast video.
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1847192701965930&id=100000256539693

Young Artist Spotlight Interview – Miguel “TC Beats” Smith
Youth Volunteer Miguel sat down with ImagineYOU and answered questions about the music industry and how he has a plan to reach his goal of being a sound engineer. Miguel is a very dedicated and determined young man who is going to college and volunteering with imagineYOU in his spare time. The young artist spotlight was created from a rare quiet moment in the ImagineYOU lab when only Miguel and I were there talking. I decided it would be interesting to interview Miguel and record it. The questions that I asked Miguel were on the fly and had no prior thought. What came out of that 8 minutes is a program that I will continue with other young artists who are interested in the arts and other ways of improving themselves.
These are the questions from the Young Artist Spotlight interview.

1. If you could work with any producer or rapper who would they be?
2. Where do you see yourself professionally in 5 years?
3. How do feel about Rochester music artist
4. What is your favorite piece of sound equipment and what is your dream equipment?
5. The profession that you are going to school for requires very expensive equipment. How do you plan to pay for it?

Watch and listen to Miguel’s answers here: https://www.facebook.com/jahylton/videos/10215671187989932/

**Local History (Christine Ridarsky Reporting)**

**Programs**

- Library Assistant Emily Morry and her co-author Mary Grenier presented February’s *Rochester’s Rich History* talk about their book *Rochester Through Time*. We also hosted a special presentation for Black History Month and the Frederick Douglass bicentennial by Leigh Fought, who spoke about her book *Women in the World of Frederick Douglass*.
- Also, this month, Historical Researcher Michelle Finn applied to the Gannett Foundation for a Community Action Grant to support the implementation of a National History Day (NHD) program for middle and high school students in the Rochester City School District (RCSD). National History Day is an annual academic competition for 6th- to 12th-grade students that emphasizes original historical research, interpretation, writing, and creative expression, preparing participants for future success in the classroom and beyond. Because of constraints faced by RCSD, this will be the first time in years, if not decades, that its students will have the opportunity to participate in this enriching academic program. Finn submitted this proposal in partnership with Rebecca Fuss and the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) and Steve LaMorte, Executive Director of Social Studies for RCSD. If funded, the library will host a research visits by student participants and chaperones in Fall 2018, as well as a city-wide competition in Spring 2018. Winners will advance to the regional competition held at the Genesee Country Village & Museum.

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

- Ridarsky and Finn participated in a conference call this month with the planning committee for the 2018 Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) annual conference. Ridarsky is chairing the committee, and Finn serves as a member. The conference will be held in Rochester in October 2018.
- Ridarsky attended three meetings of the Veterans Memorial & Executive Committee and its subcommittees this month to consult on various issues, including the Rapids Cemetery Restoration & Research Project, renovations to the War Memorial and upgrades to the kiosk inside the Blue Cross Arena, and a request from Roberta Abbott Buckle to have a memorial plaque placed in the War Memorial to honor her father Col. Robert Abbott.
- Finn worked with staff at the Webster Public Library, the Pittsford Community Library, and The Little Theatre to bring the traveling woman suffrage exhibit to those locations in February. The exhibit remained on display at the Chili Public Library during the first half of the month, as well. The traveling exhibit has been seen by more than 60,000 visitors since it hit the road in October 2017.
- The original exhibition, *Because of Women Like Her ...Winning the Vote in New York State*, that was at the library last summer was mentioned in a post on author Brooke Kroeger’s website, *Women’s Suffrage and the Media* (http://suffrageandthemedia.org/source/a-special-suffrageandthemedia-report-how-the-media-covered-the-new-yorkstate-suffrage-centennial/). The piece was about media coverage of the 2017 New York State Suffrage Centennial.
- The library and our RochesterVoices.org website were also featured in an article that Library Assistant Emily Morry wrote for the *Democrat & Chronicle* this month in honor of the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony (https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/lifestyle/2018/02/14/happy-birthday-frederick-douglass-
susan-anthony/110405148/). The article discussed the many documents and artifacts relating to these reformers and the repositories around Rochester where they can be found.

Special Collections

- Consulting archivist Stephanie Mathieu continued work this month on the 2017–18 Documentary Heritage Program grant project, and staff and interns completed finding aids for the Ira Sapozink and Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary collections, the John Reay papers, the Thomas P. Stowell scrapbook, and the Martha (Mattie) Burns papers. They also began inventorying remaining unprocessed collections, for which we lack intellectual control, and continued inventorying our map and oversized ephemera collections. One new archival collection was received in February and is being reviewed—a group of sports memorabilia relating to several obscure Rochester professional and semi-professional sports teams of the recent past (Griffins, Greywolves, Brigade, etc.).

Anecdotes / Other

- Osborne had a curious conversation with a caller from the west coast this month. The caller was looking for any extended family that might be in Rochester. After checking Ancestry.com and city and suburban directories, it became clear that the family for which the woman was looking were actually quite close friends of Osborne’s. He was able to describe the farm house in Greece that her grandfather grew up in and was able to supply her with information that other parts of the family had recently moved to another west coast city. He agreed to pass the invitation to contact these relations to the remaining family in New York.
- Staff of the Local History & Genealogy Division and of the City Historian’s Office were called upon to provide Councilmember Michael Patterson with detailed information about the history of Cobbs Hill Park to help inform the conversation about park development currently under consideration by city government.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference - During February, RMC handled 1,548 reference questions and 363 non-reference transactions for a total of 1911.

Hoopla - Hoopla circulations in January totaled 1023: (254 Movies/TV, 401 Audiobooks, 117 Music, 143 eBooks, and 108 Comics.) 390 patrons used the service during February with 32 new users registering. Average cost was $2.03/item.

Door Count - In February RMC’s door count averaged 465/day during the week. Wednesday and Monday nights from 6-8:30 were very busy averaging 55. The door count on Fridays between 5pm and 6pm averaged 20.

Equipment Rental - Since the addition of the link for equipment rental on roccitylibrary.org, we have noticed an increase in equipment requests. In February we circulated 11 items! We have also added a new Slide to Digital converter for patron with old 2x2 slides. The equipment available for loan/rental includes:

- 16mm Projector ($5.00 per day)
- Regular 8mm/Super 8mm Projector ($5.00 per day)
- Super 8mm Sound Projector ($5.00 per day)
- Slide Projector ($5.00 per day)
- INFOCUS Video Projector ($45.00 per day)
- SHARP Video Projector ($45.00 per day)
- Overhead Transparency Projector ($5.00 per day)
- Record Player ($5.00 per day)
- Reel to Reel Tape Recorder ($5.00 per day)
- Cassette Player ($2.00 per day)
- Screens ($5.00 per day)
- VHS to DVD Transfer Unit ($25.00 per day)
- VHS Player with Built in Monitor ($5.00 per day)
Science and History Division, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Meetings

- Jennifer Byrnes and Sarah Bishopp Velez met with Library Resource Outreach Center (LROC) staff to discuss adding other agencies under the LROC umbrella. A memorandum of understanding was drafted because of this meeting to be signed by LROC, the library, and the joining agency. Sarah attended the regular monthly LROC meeting.
- Jennifer Byrnes met with Steve Taubenfeld of the Red Cross. The Red Cross would like to partner with more libraries to hold blood drives. Jennifer is proposing that in 2019 we hold the MCLS “Blood Bath” wherein each member library holds a blood drive and the library that donates the most units gets a trophy and t-shirts saying, “my library saves lives.”
- Jennifer Byrnes met with Beatriz LeBron of Rochester Regional Health to discuss the agency offering services at Central either under the LROC umbrella or individually.

Programs

- Animals of the Rochester Police Department. Duncan the horse from the mounted patrol and Sully the German shepherd of the bomb sniffing unit, and their handlers, discussed how animals assist officers in doing their jobs; Sully did a demonstration bomb sniffing.
- The mobile dental unit was on site twice this month and was full both days.
- Nurse Barb saw 32 people as of February 22nd.
- Library Resource Outreach Center saw 69 people as of February 21st.
- Volunteer Legal Services Project saw 10 people as of February 21st.
- Take Your Child to the Library Day. Alla Levi with dance partner Marty Steinhauser taught Tango to children and their parents as they traveled from station to station throughout the Library during the event. 2/3/18

Outreach

- Jennifer Byrnes, Nurse Barb, and Alla Levi attended Advocacy Day in Albany. Steve Nash was invited to the New York State United Teachers Winter Conference which was held at the Hyatt Regency. The keynote speaker spoke on the history of unions and their status in the U.S. and New York State. Afterwards, Steve participated in a workshop with secondary teachers on the history of unions.
- Steve Nash attended the Black History Month program of the Greece Historical Society. The Buffalo Soldiers Presentation Team from VFW Post 9251 gave a talk on the history of the Buffalo Soldiers (1866-1951). Uniforms, equipment and field communications methods used by the African American soldiers, known as the "Buffalo Soldiers," was included in the program. A special highlight was the opportunity to meet Charles Price of Rochester who was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen.
- Steve Nash was invited to attend the private opening of the new Rochester Auto Museum which is located on 140 Main St. On display are "muscle cars" built by US car companies in the late 1960's to the early 1970's. In addition, there is a wall of remembrance that depicts the names and pictures of the 280 soldiers from the greater Rochester area who were killed in the Vietnam War. Steve assisted in helping to find some of the pictures. The local Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20 were presented with a check donated by the owner of CGI Communications. For more information please go to www.rochesterautomuseum.com. The museum is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am-3 pm. Admission is free. Donations collected go to the VVA Chapter 20.
- Kate Meddaugh was asked to speak to the staff of the Fairport Public Library about the Carlson Patent and Trademark Center as well as how we can help their customers.

Consulting

- Jennifer Byrnes was appointed to a committee that is a partnership between the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) to produce a unique, space themed, health programming addendum to CSLP’s 2019 program manual. The committee is responsible for contributing content as well as vetting, testing, revising and improving the ideas that are submitted. To learn more about CSLP please go to www.cslpreads.org.
• For the Patent Center, Kate Meddaugh assisted 23 people with Intellectual Property needs this month: 14 in person, 3 by phone, 2 by letter and 4 by email. This does not include the number of questions answered. This is individual patron interactions.

Anecdotes
• Steve Nash was approached by a patron to locate information on the 188th Regiment of the New York Volunteers, a unit that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. The patron's great-grandfather had served in this unit. In doing some family research, the patron had located some documents about his relative. The patron then became intrigued about the history of the 188th and for information on where his great grandfather was in the war. Steve located military reports in the NYS State archives and the National Archives and shared them with the patron.
• A patron called saying that she was diagnosed with gout in her foot and would like to know what not to eat with this condition. Alla Levi searched reliable internet sources like WebMD, Mayo Clinic, and MedlinePlus and found seven relevant articles to send to the woman. She called a week later and Alla transcribed her voice mail message: “Hi Alla, this is Lynn, I can’t thank you enough for the gout information you sent me. It is fantastic and I’m feeling so much better. God Bless You!!! You should have been a doctor. Thank you very, very much for your help.”

Branch Library Updates
Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

Facilities Branch and Operations Plan Update
On February 16, Joan Lee, and I had our first conference call with Hester Street to discuss the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan. Jen Lenio will join us on the next conference call scheduled March 2. Hester Street’s first initial visit to RPL will be on March 12. On March 12, Hester Street will conduct an internal staff/library affiliates work session and key interviews from members of local and community organizations. On March 13, they will tour the Winton, Maplewood, Douglass and Lincoln branch libraries to understand the physical site, programmatic and operational issues.

Community Initiatives
Healthi Kids Initiative-School #33 Campus Project Planning Committee. Healthi Kids has a growing desire from the school, neighborhood, and library to create a vibrant play sidewalk or story walk in front of the School 33. The sidewalk would be similar to the one at the Phillis Wheatley Community Library. The project plans to cover up to 7,000 square feet using the main entrance to the library and school.

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.

AmeriCorps Update - The AmeriCorps team continues to work hard and interact with an impressive amount of people throughout their service. Throughout February, the cohort assisted with 56 story times with 652 attendees, assisted 60 individuals with job searching, resume development, tax assistance, computer use and held 7 special programs with 51 attendees. This month brings our Year 3 attendance total up to 155 pushing us ahead of schedule to complete the annual attendance goal of 400 attendees. We are excited to plan more programs in the branches throughout March and make more community connections.

Shawnitea Ragans continues to organize the community connections board at Lincoln and assisted the NE UNITY Block Association this month. She was able to attend and assist the Block Club with an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Event at the end of February. Ragans has also made connections throughout the community by attending meetings held by the Joseph Avenue Business Association and with a college group that is studying land use in the area surrounding the branch.
Safe To Be Smart Program – Derrick Coley, Youth Services Coordinator reporting

- Arnett Site - Shetora Banks facilitated a field-trip to see the movie, “Black Panther” for African-American history month. She had an observance for the bi-centennial of Fredrick Douglass. The teens recited famous quotes and poems by Fredrick Douglass and ate birthday cake in his honor. Banks had teens pick two African-American inventors and print them out for a brief presentation and display in teenspace. Also, Banks picked two teens to be representatives of the Neighborhood Scholars for African-American history month. The teens received a Neighborhood Scholar hooded sweatshirt.

- Phillis Wheatley Site - Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford chaperoned a group of teens to “Cake or Crumz,” a live African-American play performance on relationships and dating. She facilitated a Valentine’s Day cookie decorating workshop for youth. The theme was cookies made with love! The teens were treated to a soul food supper mix and mingle in honor of African-American history month. Bostick-Beckford picked two teens to be representatives of the Neighborhood Scholars for African-American history month. The teens received a Neighborhood Scholar hooded sweatshirt.

- Maplewood Site - Mark Dixon picked two teens to be representatives of the Neighborhood Scholars for African-American history month. He chose two teens with good grades (3.0 GPA’s). The teens act as role models with their good behavior in the teenspace. The teens received a Neighborhood Scholar hooded sweatshirt. Also, Dixon showed the teens a local film called, “July 64” a documentary about the riots in Rochester, New York.

- Lincoln Site - Vera Haygood continues to provide ongoing assistance for teens with internet usage, email account set-up, job search, and FAFSA financial aid forms for college. She provides space and venue for teens to participate in board gaming. Haygood picked two teens to be representatives of the Neighborhood Scholars for African-American history month. The teens received a Neighborhood Scholar hooded sweatshirt. Haygood conducted an African-American trivia contest for teens with the YA/librarian Mr. Jacob. The contestants had a pop-up quiz and a wall of famous African-Americans in history and winners received an Amazon gift card.

- The Sully site - George Carter facilitated a S.T.E.A.M experiment with the teens at Sully. The teens made invisible ink with safe materials in most kitchens at home (baking soda, food coloring and water). Carter collaborated with Fiber Art Incorporated to make memorable quilts with high tech imaging equipment and sewing machines. The youth were able to take a picture of a family member, themselves or historic person and transfer it to their quilt. This activity provided memorable keepsakes not only for youth but also for library and recreation staff that participated in the workshop. Carter chaperoned a group of teens to the Black Panther movie for African-American history month. George picked two teens to be representatives of the Neighborhood Scholars for African-American history month. The teens received a Neighborhood Scholar hooded sweatshirt.

- Teen Central Site: Lydia Williams-Hylton celebrated Valentine’s Day with workshop for young women on self-love. She facilitated an African-American Bingo contest for the teens with prizes and refreshments. The blockbuster movie Black Panther was released and spurred conversations with the young men in the TeenCenter about being strong African-American men and how to make positive changes to self and their community. Williams-Hylton held a teen appreciation day with a prize give-a-way to positive teen role
models in the TeenCenter. The seven teens were peaceful, helpful, attending school regularly and respecting all staff in TeenCentral. Williams-Hylton brought in a guest speaker from the Rochester City School District for African-American history month. Mr. Charles Frances was the facilitator who presented to youth about being comfortable in the skin they are in and historic and scientific facts about melanin, race and Africa. She picked two teens to be representatives of the Neighborhood Scholars for African-American history month. The teens received a Neighborhood Scholar hooded sweatshirt.

Southside Branches, Area Coordinator, Jen Lenio reporting

Southwest Outreach Librarian, Shamika Fusco reporting

Outreach/Storytimes
- February 1 School #42
- February 5 Community Childcare Center
- February 8 School #22 Black History Month Extended Day
- February 13 Community Childcare Center
- February 13 Urban Suburban Family
- February 16 #29 School Black History Month

Students from #29 celebrated Black History Month by having a vendors expo in the Gym. I was one of the vendors and I handed out library information. I was also able to give each teacher a book that was written by or about an African or African American.

Students from #22 school celebrated Black History Month by having an extended Learning Day. Students performed poetry and dances that gave tribute to great African Americans, their culture and musicians like Michael Jackson etc. I provided library information and free books. I was also able to give out a few library cards.

Upcoming Events

Children’s Film Festival is in the works and will take place in April. I will send out an email to see what libraries will participate this year. We anticipate at least 10. The library foundation will support this event again this year and will provide money to buy books that will be given out after the viewing. There will be a Cupcake Jones book program at Arnett Library March 31st featuring local children’s author Taleah.

Arnett, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs
- On Monday February 19, an eagle, a mockingbird, Scout, Langston Hughes, and Frederick Douglass came into play as 15 awesome young Arnetters celebrated Black History Month at the library by creating framed pictures of themselves in front of our mural. The program went so well that 25 more children asked to do the same thing the next day. Of course, I ran the program again. The next day a lady who had seen a lot of kids in the neighborhood showing off the pictures came in and shyly asked for us to take her picture by the mural so she could send them to her two sisters. I gave her the two pictures plus one for her to keep herself and received a very warm heartfelt thank you from her. Several days later she came back to tell me how much her family appreciated the pictures.
• In the last week of February, YA Librarian Katie Powell had teens play Black History Month Bingo, guessing the names of famous African Americans based on the clues provided.

• To start off the month, Arnett hosted another wonderful concert as part of their annual Music Series. This month featured talented youth ensembles from the Eastman Community School. There was a cello quartet, a flute trio, and a string quartet. The children were wonderful performers and enjoyed interacting with the audience.

• Adult Librarian Anne Brown also had an extremely successful three part “Learn to Knit” course as part of their Friends Teaching Friends program series. Deb Leary taught participants how to cast on and do basic knit stitch in the first class, purling in the second class, and how to combine the two into different patterns in the third class. Leary is extremely knowledgeable and brought lots of examples and tools to show the class. Since the class was so popular, they started keeping a waiting list for potentially running a second three-part course in the spring. Brown also surveyed participants to find out what attracted them to this program and what type of craft programs they would like to see in the future, and as a result she is going to try offering more casual knit/crochet programs where participants can bring their own projects and drop in for as long as they like.

• Take Your Child to the Library Day was a success at Arnett. The Friends of Arnett Library and Adult Services librarian Anne Brown organized a concert, and Powell set up a children’s book character scavenger hunt activity.

Douglass, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

• The Friends & Foundation of RPL sponsored both of our Frederick Douglass birthday week celebration events as well as reimbursed us for the food and a giant balloon. I worked with Tiana Stephens from City Communications to promote the programs, and she also gave me stickers, buttons, and a Proclamation in celebration of Frederick Douglass’s 200th birthday. Both events attracted quite a bit of media attention and brought in members of the community I’ve seen at meetings but never in the library or at library events. We had door counts of 545 and 682 during the week. We also strengthened our ties with the Douglass R-Center: Mike Velazquez provided space in the gym for a large audience, and he was very excited to be able to offer this program to the kids as well as adults in the community. Gabby, one of the children who visit the library from the R-Center, loved seeing Reverend Loguen and Frederick Douglass “in person.” When she thought Frederick Douglass couldn’t answer her question because he was too busy, she started crying. She came over to me and wanted a hug, and I took her over to Frederick Douglass and she had the chance to speak to him directly. She asked amazing questions and left with a copy of the Constitution from Mr. Douglass, as well as a sticker and a button from Tiana Stephens.

Anecdotes/Other

Ngo reports that their activities with the Recreation Center have been slower this month due to break week. Even with that, they still had quite a few kids. They work well with Center now with more kids coming over for help with homework that their staff can’t assist with. The iPads are the biggest hit with the Rec kids. They love to play on them. Total Participation: 53
Here is an example of the creativity and learning that the kids enjoy on the iPads. Ngo used the Toca Boca Hair Salon 3 app as a challenge (she gives the kids a theme and they must design a hairstyle around it). This challenge’s theme was the US flag.

Monroe, Mary Clare Scheq reporting

Programs

- Children’s Librarian Margaret Paige reports that February Recess Unplugged started off slowly but grew in size and enthusiasm. The goal of the programs was to provide drop-in crafts and gross motor activities during much of their open hours. Of course, we couldn’t predict that it would be 65 degrees in mid-February, but we still had a good turnout. Throughout the week, participants made crafts, found their way through a maze, played hopscotch, and tried out the balance beam. The maze activity was the gross motor activity favorite of the week. Paige incorporated sight words (walk, today, sing, funny, grow, see, going, write) and hand-eye coordination into the maze as well. The objective was to throw bean bags on each word in the maze and then say it aloud, either from sight recognition, sounding out the letters, or with the help of an adult.

- Babies & Books: At the Monroe Branch Library’s infant story time program has continued to have active participation and involvement by mothers, fathers, aunts, grandmothers, and grandfathers. Here are doting grandmothers Kim, Sue, and Silvana at one of their February programs. Jim, who attended with his first grandson and now brings his second grandson to the program, was out of town for this meeting. Babies & Books friends become like a family and, as one of the goals of the program is to connect new parents, it’s rewarding to know that many of the group members from each cohort are still good friends.

- “Basketful of Warmth”: The girl scouts came and dropped off their final installment of hats, gloves, coats etc. The good news is that next year another troop will continue providing us with warm clothes for the winter months. This has been such a positive program for both the scouts and the library.

- Olympic “Commemorative Pins” Raffle: A number of years ago, a patron donated a number of Olympic boxes that contained “Commemorative Pins” from one of the summer Olympics. Cherrin Arnold had the idea of raffling off two of these boxes during the winter Olympics. We had 17 people that participated in this raffle. We drew a child’s name and a YA/Adult name. The adult that won these pins was so excited to receive them. He said he never wins anything.

- We have started a winter reading program for adults. It will run until the first day of spring. Nanci Nugent from Central was instrumental in helping me with this program. She was able to print out winter themed tags for our “Activity Tree.” We have sleds, skates, snowmen and mittens. It is very simple…do what is on the tag and return it for our spring drawing. This is something new so I’m not sure how successful it will be. The “Activity Tree” can be found on our Facebook page.
Wheatley, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

Valentine’s Day was a smashing hit. Bring food and they will come. We had a mixture of children, teens, and adults participating. Of course they all voted to make more and it ended with less sprinkles on the floor than Haehn thought there would be.

Anecdotes/Other

- Rippey Trust- A list has been created for Rippey Trust expenditures and we are working with FFRPL to order. We are requesting: new tables and chairs for the meeting room, more DVD shelving for adult and kids’ areas, a concrete bench, garbage can and bike rack for the garden area. We are also working to contract with a new garden group: The Taproot Collective. They will be stewards of the garden for the coming growing season once contract details are finalized.
- Haehn had two very awesome interactions with patrons happened this month and they made her feel so good. The first one was a woman who just pulled her 6th grade child out of school and was having a hard time trying to figure out what to do. Haehn was able to give him a library card and put some learning books on hold for him. Secondly, Haehn told the patron about the Rochester Area Homeschooling Association and how they can help her by finding other groups of homeschooling parents to talk too. Her little ones were great as well. All three of them gave Haehn huge hugs after she found Pete the Cat books for them. Haehn also informed the patron that she was working on creating a homeschool collection for Wheatley and about a couple of other libraries that have more of a selection of homeschooling items. In the end, Haehn told her that if she needed someone to talk to about further information that she would be happy to help.
- Her second encounter this month was an older gentleman. He needed help getting onto the computer to type a letter. She showed him how to do it and how to print out the document. Haehn then went back up to the front desk to finish the project she was working on. He came to the desk and told her how he thoroughly appreciated her help and that it made him feel really welcomed to the library.

Winton, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Children’s Librarian Jeanne Slocombe reports that Bach to Rock was a free program provided by the school. Two of their voice students performed a current, popular song. An instructor led the group in a sing-along and introduced stringed instruments. Slocombe said that one of their elder patrons even joined the audience and thoroughly enjoyed the event.
- For this month’s book discussion, Adult Librarian Pat Finnerty reports they discussed “The Distance Between Us” by Reyna Grande. The group really enjoyed the book and had a good discussion. One of the attendees (a former librarian) led the discussion and she said it was a great discussion and that they stayed on topic the whole time! The Friday afternoon group also discussed “A Distance Between Us.” Many of the members of both groups plan on attending the author visit when she is in town.

Anecdotes/Other

More and more people seem to be taking an interest in Hoopla. One gentleman came in several times this month, needed Hoopla and also kept demanding Kanopy. I explained to him that MCLS did not subscribe to Kanopy. The only system I was aware of was the New York Public Library, which he could become a member of with a NYS driver’s license. By months end he was successfully subscribed to both Kanopy and Hoopla thanks to the library and could manage both apps on his iphone. Also, Finnerty helped a woman apply for a job with Delta Airlines. It was a very involved application process and she was thankful for the help.
Northside Branches, Joan Lee, Area Coordinator reporting

Charlotte, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs

- Our local history program for February featured Channel 9 television personality and author Mike O’Brien (“The Getaway Guy”). O’Brien specializes in visiting off-the-beaten track locations in New York State and then sharing his travel experiences. His presentation was friendly, informal and humorous. The participants mostly seemed to be fans of his and were kind of star-struck to meet him in person. After the program several folks thanked us for bringing O’Brien to the library.

- The Children’s Room February science activity consisted of a challenge to build a structure using a limited supply of spaghetti, mini marshmallows and tape. It was one of the most popular science activities we’ve done to date. ‘Tween volunteer Wesley won the challenge by making the tallest structure.

- Saturday February 3 was Take Your Child to the Library Day. Children’s librarian Kim Whittemore offered a variety of activities, including a scavenger hunt, crafts and games. Twenty-two folks came out to enjoy the event and many signed advocacy cards for destined for NYS legislators in support of public libraries.

- Charlotte Branch Library set up an information table at the Lakeside Winter Celebration at Ontario Beach Park on Saturday, February 10. Librarians Kim Whittemore and Karen Duff were unable to work the event due to prior commitments and Tantillo was staffing the library. Fortunately Caitlyn Stahovic-Barnes, formerly a literacy aide at Charlotte and now a librarian at Maplewood, was willing to help us out. Stahovic-Barnes watched the table for 4 hours and Tantillo came down to work the table for a couple of hours after the library closed. It was a well-attended event (it always is). We met lots of people and gave away lots of free materials.

- As usual we had extra children’s activities during February’s winter vacation week. We had our regular vacation craft activity for ‘tweens and teens, but instead of having staff teach a project as we usually do, we decided to bring in a guest artist. We hired Linda Bowers, a local craftsperson who has a business decorating and selling eggs. She taught the kids to decorate eggs using alcohol-based inks. We had a full enrollment of 15 participants. The technique was easy to master, but the results were exquisite. The kids each took home three beautiful eggs they had decorated in the class.

- The February class for our adult craft series was planned and taught by Charlotte Branch clerk Ann Marie Buonemani. Buonemani has prior training in commercial art and planned a project using mixed media. Each participant created a small picture using paints, decoupage, stamping and other techniques. We had full enrollment and the response was great. Folks want Buonemani to teach more classes! I know from experience just how much work it is to plan and execute an ambitious make-it-and-take it project like this, and I commend Buonemani for her above-and-beyond efforts, and for the high quality of the program.

I had a gratifying interaction with a patron this month. I was working on a Saturday morning when a patron came up to me and said he’d like to talk to me about something. I guess I must be a bit of a pessimist because I was girding myself to field a complaint in an empathetic manner. Instead the patron complimented us on our collection of books focusing on 12-step recovery from alcohol abuse and other addictions. He said he used several MCLS libraries and thought we had the best collection of any he’d visited. He mentioned that he himself was a member of AA as were plenty of people in our neighborhood [the same could be said of any neighborhood] and he thought having the books was an important support for folks. I explained to him that when I first started at Charlotte I had a few requests for 12-step books from patrons but found our collection lacking, and resources generally rather thin in the system, so I’ve gradually been building up our holdings. He said that it showed, and he was appreciative. It’s quite a morale boost to have patrons notice and express appreciation for the work we’re doing. It made the whole day seem sunnier.
Lincoln, Jason Gogniat reporting

Programs

- Children’s Librarian Rosa Diaz participated in the annual “Take your Child to the Library” day here at Lincoln. *Clifford the Big Red Dog* made an appearance for the day and kids and families were able to take advantage of free face-painting.
- February break was a busy week here at Lincoln with many Rochester City School District (RCSD) students regularly stopping in. Diaz held several programs throughout the week, including a “Dessert Wars” program which allowed kids to construct their own desserts from an assortment of ingredients.
- Teen Librarian Jacob Bigelow held a Black History Trivia Night for teens in honor of Black History Month. For the second straight year Bigelow did a large amount of research on important local Black History figures in Rochester and used the Trivia Night as a format to share his research with teens and others.
- A large group of Rochester City School District students stopped by the Toy Library for a visit. Both kids and parents participated in a joint field trip and Librarian Assistant Sarah Fitts-Romig spoke with parents about the Toy Library and the importance of play in a child’s education.

Outreach

- Diaz stopped by the Ibero-American Action League’s Centro D’oro for seniors. Diaz signed several more of the seniors up for library cards and promoted the library’s Spanish computer classes. Diaz also checked out Spanish language books to many of the patrons remotely.
- Fitts–Romig continued the Toy Library’s collaboration with WXXI delivered six of the new WXXI bins to School #8 along with two additional Travel Bins. The teachers were thrilled to receive these materials. Three of the Travel Kits will be transported to the Genesee Charter School for use in their Kindergarten class. Also, Fitts-Romig presented to an RCSD Professional Development class session on Meaningful Play and will continue to attend the remainder of the classes meeting every other week.
- I wrote a letter of support for the Salvation Army’s Temple Corps’ application to the Thomas Lyle Williams fund for program enrichment. The Salvation Army is hoping to offer English classes in the 14621 area for Spanish speakers and at the same time provide child care services so that parents can attend without worrying about child care.

Lyell, Pat Connor reporting

Programs

- We began February with our annual Take Your Child to the Library Day celebration. Families were given the opportunity to listen to stories, make bookmarks, play games and sign up for library cards. The first Saturday in February is also Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day; we served up breakfast ice cream sundaes–ice cream with cheerios and fruit cocktail toppings. Patricia Connor, began a series of National Food day programs in January when the Lyell Branch celebrated National Popcorn Day on January 19. February brought National Pizza Day with English muffin pizza and pizza stories on February 9. The series continues in March and April with National Potato Chip Day and National Pretzel Day. (There also seems to be a link with foods beginning with the letter P).
- Jennifer Cherelin continues to provide extensive help to patrons on computers and personal devices. During the month of February, her bilingual skills were again called into action on several occasions. We are happy to be able to help Spanish speaking patrons with learning how to negotiate computers, tax and legal forms and health assistance. We followed up January’s Yoga program with a Stress Relief programs for adults. DreamBikes of Rochester made their monthly visit to Lyell and worked with a few new patrons.
- In addition to weekly story times and craft programs, Emily Baker planned a variety of programs for February Break week. Thanks to LEGO blocks borrowed from the Toy Library, there was a lot of building and engineering happening one afternoon. Along with playdough fun, a toddler dance party, Family African American history BINGO and a visit from Miss Kacey, our favorite Tail-Waggin’ tutor, there was...
much to choose from in the Lyell Children's room. We even managed to throw in some board game playing with a couple of tween boys who have begun visiting Lyell on a regular basis.

Community Outreach/Meetings
- For the past several months, Connor has been in contact with Neil Scheier from the Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance. The Alliance along with the Eastman Community Music School will be holding a 10-week Music in Motion program at the Lyell Branch beginning in March. We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to area students in second through fourth grades. Flyers have been sent to area schools along with Cameron Community Ministries.
- A return visit was made to Generations Child Care and several of the children had completed library registration cards. Connor was able to hand out the YES card to the children during her visit. Despite having to be rescheduled due to vacations and meetings, time was found for the monthly visit to School #17.

Anecdotes/Other
James Lynch, TASC instructor, reports another success story from the TASC program at Lyell: "Brittni N. has worked with me at both Lyell and Wheatley libraries, mostly last season, due to her work hours she is unable to attend presently. I supplied online support for her to continue and it paid off! Brittni only needed Math, after taking her TASC in October 2017 and passing the rest of sub-tests. Brittni passed her Math and her TASC Diploma is in the mail!"

Maplewood, Johanna Buran reporting
Programs
- For “Take Your Child to the Library” many activities were planned. There was a Bingo board of activities to complete. Activities ranged from coloring, library cards, a paper heart craft, Lego lab and a word hunt. The kids had a lot of fun trying to complete all the activities.
- Storybook Cook Ann Brougham visited Maplewood to make Valentine’s Day Treats. Tweens/Teens were excited to decorate cookies, make smoothies and make chocolate dipped pretzels. It was messy and sugary but very much enjoyed by everyone.
- In preparation for Valentine’s Day, we gave our young patrons several opportunities to make valentine cards for their classmates and others in their lives, such as, teachers and family members. We made Mosaic Hearts on one occasion, and Valentine Monsters and Owls on another. We also made Valentine “Cookie” Magnets and heart picture frames. The biggest, most popular activity was creating your own valentine activity which covers two days. This activity allowed kids to use a plethora of crafting supplies to create unique Valentines; many made class sets for school.
- School break at the Maplewood library was very busy. There were planned activities each day. On Monday, Shawn Miles came in and worked with the children on manners and the benefits of using “magic words” like please and thank you. On Tuesday, Mike Fantauzzo showed the interested patrons how to work with dominoes. The kids quietly watched him set them up and cheered loudly when they spiraled down again. Fantauzzo donated a large supply of dominoes with us and the children have played with them several times. They also drafted and signed a thank you note to Fantauzzo.
- On Wednesday, we worked with AmeriCorps and the children played The Game of Life – Pets. Participants learned a lot about the expenses of owning a pet and budget their money. Then on Thursday and Friday there was Lego Lab and Book Bingo. On Saturday, we had a Summer Fun Day. This gave all the kids who didn’t get to go someplace sunny and warm, a little piece of the summer experience. We built play dough sand castles using special sandy play dough, played with bubbles and had a hula hoop contest. We, also, had a word hunt and summery coloring pages. We made sidewalk chalk pictures on construction paper and had a picnic, complete with ants. The biggest hit of the day, however, was the arrival of the Tail Waggin’ Tutors. Casey and Mickey were the high point of the day and the kids lined up to read to the pups.
We’ve seen an increase in teens volunteering from Aquinas and had several who helped during the school break. Teens have continued to enjoy coloring on Thursdays. During the school break they had a tournament of Uno and played other games like monopoly.

The Maplewood Book Club read My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry by Fredrick Backman. The book for March is Vanessa and Her Sister by Priya Parmar. The upcoming March book is about Vanessa Woolf and Virginia Woolf. The Maplewood Book Club has read Virginia Woolf in the past.

Some of the topics in the English Speakers of Other languages (ESOL) covered for the month of February were Valentine's Day, marriage traditions, famous women, Presidents' Day, biographies and symbols with seasons changing. The classes are well attended daily, and many of the young mothers bring their children with them.

Community Outreach/Meetings

We were contacted by Sarah Powers from the Exploration Elementary Charter School on Lake Avenue. Powers reached out to the library to have someone visit and talk about taking care of library books and library etiquette with her students. Visits will be set up so staff can work with the students to learn these library skills.

Two interns from the United Nations Associations of Rochester (UNAR) have been helping with the citizenship classes. Maia Dobbs is helping with citizenship classes on Monday and Holly Drasser is helping on Wednesday.

Anecdotes/other

Student Leutnala Oupasensack passed his citizenship test. Mr. Oupasesack is now attending English classes at OASIS learning center. His wife May Kham also studied at the library and passed last year.

Sully, Maria-Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

We participated in the School 33 World Read Aloud Day on February 1. After reading two stories to the class, we talked a little bit about the library and the types of things they could borrow from there. The kids were excited to know they could check out books, movies (especially the Trolls movie), fishing poles, and video games. After they found out about being able to borrow video games, many of them said they were going to go to the library.

We’ve had a nice full month of programming for kids at Sully! Craft Club kicked off this month and will be an ongoing weekly program. The kids have enjoyed getting creative with our craft supplies.

We enjoyed a successful Valentine robot-making program this month. The kids had so much fun designing and building their own edible robots and we watched the movie WALL-E as inspiration! Eating the robots was just as much fun as creating them!

Our literacy aide, Kima, decided to host a cupcake decorating program this month. She baked lots of colorful cupcakes at home and invited kids to decorate them with lots of frosting, sprinkles and...
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)

Central Library Supervisors
City of Rochester – Financial Audit RFP First Review
City of Rochester’s Comprehensive Plan development – library input: Elizabeth Murphy, Senior Community Planner – City’s Department of Neighborhood Business Development’s Office of Planning
City of Rochester’s Revenue Committee
Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – Giant Colon Exhibit at Central Library – Press Conference
Friends & Foundation of RPL and RPL Fiscal Year 2019 Planning: Ned Davis and Brie Harrison
Great American Read - WXXI staff
Libraries After Dark Planning Team
Literacy Volunteers at Gates Public Library
Monroe County Legislature
MCLS Adult Services Librarians
National Parent Leadership Institute’s Operations Manager, Carolyn Lee Davis
New York State Association of Library Systems (NYALS) conference call
New York State Head Start Collaboration Director, and Early Childhood Advisory Council Co-Chair, Patty Persell
Pioneer Library System conference call
Roc the Future’s Summer Learning Collaborative Action Network at United Way offices (two meetings)
Rochester Downtown Development Corporation Executive Director, Heidi Zimmer-Meyer; Brie Harrison
RPL and MCLS Boards of Trustees – Joint Meeting
RPL and MCLS Boards of Trustees Joint Finance Committee; Brie Harrison
RPL Annual Report planning – Senior Graphic Designer, Corinne Clar
RPL Barring Process – Tolley Reeves, EdD; Ana Suro
RPL Trustee Orientation – Alinda Drury; Brie Harrison
Rochester Regional Library Council’s Advisory Council
Rochester Regional Library Council System Directors

Email Activity

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