TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: May 29, 2019  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – May 2019

**Action Items**

**RPL Board of Trustees By-Laws Revision (By-Laws Committee)**

The ad hoc By-Laws Committee met several times to review the existing by-laws document which had not been updated since 1994. The committee consulted with City Attorney Johanna Brennan and agreed upon the document that is included with this packet and presented for consideration of the full board.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the revised RPL By-Laws

**Professional Services Agreement for Conservation of Library Materials (Uttaro)**

We are requesting approval of a professional services agreement with Gary Albright, who will perform conservation and preservation treatment on an 1853 “Bird’s-Eye View” lithograph of Rochester and 10 hand-drawn maps of Rochester’s subway line. The work to be performed includes cleaning and removing adhesives from the items, backing them with Japanese paper and wheat starch, mending and filling tears, flattening, and encapsulating them between sheets of polyester. The total cost for this work is $5,875.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the PSA with Gary Albright

**Update to 2019-20 Central Library Budget (Harrison)**

Since RPL Board approval of the Central Library budget in February, we have received confirmation of the requested 1.5% increase in County operating support as submitted and approved.

Also since February, we have confirmation that City Recreation and Youth Services will vacate the Central Library by the end of the first quarter of the budget year, a reduction of three quarters or approximately $30,000 in revenue. We are also now including the occupancy cost charges ($30,000) for Empire Justice’s CASH tax program, as proposed to the Board as an action item this month. These revenue changes result in neutral impact to the budget. No other changes are proposed in areas of staffing, benefits, or operations expenses.

The Central budget remains at $10,733,900; we are distributing a revised expense and revenue summary, which reflects the minor changes described.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the amended 2019-20 Central Library Budget.

**Update to 2019-20 Community Library Budget (Harrison)**

Since RPL Board approval of the Central Library budget in February, we received confirmation that the City School District will not fund the summer learning initiative with seasonal Literacy Aides. This initiative was cost and revenue neutral ($38,900). City administration has incorporated the RPL’s requested conversion of a part-time Librarian I at the Maplewood branch and a part-time Youth Services Assistant to full-time. These changes increase full-time salaries by $77,600, and decrease part-time wages by $81,500 from the approved budget. The City’s Capital Improvement Program budget as submitted to City Council does not include the recommended reductions in branch facilities; the original allocation of $50,000 remains, a $20,000 increase from the approved budget. The Community operating budget as amended will be $4,588,000 in 2019-20. We are distributing revised expense and revenue summaries, which reflects the changes described.
Board Action Requested: Approval of the amended 2019-20 Community Library Budget.

Central Library Development Aid FY20 (Harrison)
Enclosed is the proposed budget application for the expenditure of state Central Library Development Aid for the 2019-20 fiscal year, flat from 2018-19. FY20 reflects the ongoing shift of Central collection development to support electronic materials, with a decrease in reference materials of $20,000 and an increase in e-materials of $17,000. A minor increase in research databases ($3,100) reflects subscription costs.

Board Action Requested: Approval of NYSED Central Library Development Aid for the 2019-20 budget cycle.

Agreement, RCSD Summer Literacy Aides (Reeves)
The Summer Literacy Program was developed to provide enhanced summer programming aimed at maintaining and improving children’s reading skills using youth from the branch neighborhoods. The Rochester City School District will assist in the recruitment of up to 18 RCSD high school students as seasonal Literacy Aides at the hourly wage of $11.10. These students will be employed by the RPL at the Arnett, Charlotte, Frederick Douglass, Lincoln, Lyell, Maplewood, Sully, Wheatley branch libraries as well as the Lincoln Toy Library and the Central Library’s Children’s Center and will work 20 hours per week for eight weeks. The District will reimburse for wages, payroll taxes, and up to $3,800 in library materials and supplies, for an amount not to exceed $39,300. In 2018, the RPL employed 18 Literacy Aides who made over 32,714 literacy engagements with youth at libraries. Funding will be incorporated in the 2019-20 Community budget as (proposed) amended.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an agreement with the Rochester City School District for reimbursement of costs for services as described.

Occupancy and Service Agreement, Empire Justice CASH Program (Harrison)
For the 2019 tax season, CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) operated out of temporarily available space in the lower link level of the Bausch & Lomb building. The operations were very successful with 7,474 tax returns filed and approximately $8.8 million in returns for area residents. Going forward, CASH is planning for year-round financial services in the areas of budgeting, debt management and other financial coaching services, in addition to being a primary tax preparation location. CASH will move to an expanded model where seasonal tax filing services will occur at various locations throughout Monroe County, with member libraries as potential additional filing locations. CASH will work independently with MCLS members to determine locations in 2020.

To provide year-round support services as well as continuing with tax preparation services, the RPL has identified 3,560 square feet of staff and public space on the fourth floor of the Bausch & Lomb library building for CASH operations. The planned location and use of public service space is in conjunction with the consolidation of services and staffing within the Business and Science Divisions. Beginning in summer 2019, the fourth floor will include the Carlson IP Center, small business support and business/finance, government and law collections, to be branded as the Business Innovation Division. The grants center, job information center and social sciences collections will relocate to the third floor Science Division.

Under the proposed scenario, the Business Innovation Division will expand outreach and partner program services, and operate a reduced reference desk presence on the fourth floor. CASH will provide staffing on the floor to welcome clients and walk-ins on a limited schedule, and will develop programs available to library patrons in the future. Based on the public services provided, we are recommending an agreement that values the cost of CASH occupancy (utilities, security, and facility maintenance) versus a traditional lease model. This precedent was established during the City Recreation Department occupancy credit. The valuation of CASH occupancy will be established based on the annual budgets of the Central Library, calculated as a ratio of their occupied space and a portion of public/shared access spaces to total Central Library square footage. For the 2019-20 fiscal year, the occupancy charges will be $30,000, paid in quarterly installments. The proposed term of this agreement will be five years beginning July 1, 2019.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an occupancy and use agreement with Empire Justice Center for CASH operations, for the terms described.
Amending a Branch Development Day at the Arnett Public Library (Reeves)
The Arnett Public Library is requesting a change to their original Branch Development Day request from May 24, 2019 to June 7, 2019. Originally, Arnett was scheduled to close on May 24th, but it was later realized that RCSD was closed on the same day. Staff felt it would be a burden on the community if the library were closed the same day as schools.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the changed Branch Internal Day to June 7, 2019.

Request for Special Hours for Central Library Exhibits and Events (Uttaro)

1. The Central Library and the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library are once again participating in the KeyBank Rochester Fringe Festival. FFRPL would like to host several events in the library between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Sunday, September 15, 2019 and are requesting permission to open the library at that time.
2. The Stonewall Exhibit continues to garner attention from the community, and the library has been asked for permission to open the exhibit after-hours on Friday, June 28, until 7:00 pm and on Saturday, July 20, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm for the annual Pride event.

Board Action Requested: Approval to open the Central Library for the requested additional hours.

2018 Rochester Public Library Annual Report to New York State (Uttaro)
All public libraries in New York State are required to submit annual statistical reports to the New York State Education Department Division of Library Development. The report for RPL has been completed and is ready for submission. Highlights from the 2018 RPL report include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLECTION:</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>% change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Print Materials</td>
<td>906,594</td>
<td>1,085,289</td>
<td>-16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Electronic Materials</td>
<td>93,848</td>
<td>40,785</td>
<td>130%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Audio Visual Materials</td>
<td>143,304</td>
<td>158,408</td>
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<td>GRAND TOTAL MATERIALS</td>
<td>1,143,746</td>
<td>1,284,482</td>
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<th>PROGRAMS:</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>% change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Sessions</td>
<td>8,853</td>
<td>8,314</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Attendance</td>
<td>205,880</td>
<td>210,134</td>
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<tr>
<th>LIBRARY USE:</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>% change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>1,216,787</td>
<td>1,583,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Library Visits</td>
<td>1,354,314</td>
<td>1,465,962</td>
<td>-8%</td>
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<td>Registered Resident Borrowers</td>
<td>140,461</td>
<td>144,255</td>
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<td>Reference Transactions</td>
<td>303,926</td>
<td>347,519</td>
<td>-13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overdrive Circulation</td>
<td>79,682</td>
<td>72,267</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoopla Circulation</td>
<td>12,988</td>
<td>6,419</td>
<td>102%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Logins</td>
<td>247,569</td>
<td>280,127</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Board Action Requested: Approval of the 2018 Annual Report to New York State.
Report Items
Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting

Recommended Reading/Viewing

- Trash, the Library and a Worn Brown Table - https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/09/your-money/college-application-essays-money.html

Upcoming Events

- May 30 – Carlson Center for Intellectual Property 20th Anniversary Celebration (reception beginning at 3:30 pm on May 30 in KGA and Dorris Carlson Reading Garden).
- June 6, 4:00 pm – Mural Unveiling at Lincoln – the mural created at Lincoln through the Roc Paint Division of the City Recreation Department will be unveiled.
- June 8, 2-3:30 pm – Civic Saturday - Gather on a Saturday afternoon as friends and strangers to hear readings of "civic scripture" and poetry, come together in song, share thoughts and ideas, and hear a “civic sermon." During this time of widespread cynicism and division in American civic life, Civic Saturday is a place to come together as a community, to gather and rededicate ourselves to the practice of being active citizens. At Civic Saturday, you will be inspired and encouraged to reflect and connect with each other and create new civic traditions that are joyful and communal. Civic Saturday is a civic analogue to a faith gathering: a gathering of friends and strangers in a common place to nurture a spirit of shared purpose. But it’s not about church or synagogue or mosque — it’s about American civic religion: the creed, deeds, and rituals that truly unite us all. This event is cosponsored by the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence.

PlayWalk Update – Work continues on the PlayWalk project, led by Common Ground Health. This project will build a trail of playful experiences stretching from The Strong to the Court Street side of the Rundel Building. Interactive play spaces will be installed at MLK Park, Washington Square Park, and the library. These spaces will contain larger items and activities such as “fun house” mirrors, oversize musical instruments and games, Little Free Libraries, self-contained games, and sidewalk murals. The Court Street space at the library will have a variety of oversize or self-contained games, painted picnic tables that include game boards and chess/checker pieces, and other sidewalk art such as a labyrinth that can be “walked” for meditative purposes. More information will be shared at the board meeting.

Social Media Engagement, Alicia Gunther reporting

Constant Contact Newsletter
Central
Subscribers who opened newsletter – 864
Click through – 77

RPL
Subscribers who opened newsletter – 1,863
Click through – 439

New subscribers – 5
Central Library Updates
Assistant Director Sally Snow reporting

Arts & Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs
- Polaroid Transfer – Laura Jackett is a popular artist in the Arts Division who teaches papermaking, paper crafts, and also teaches alternative photographic techniques. Students in this class learned a technique called Polaroid Transfer. In this hands-on class, Jackett taught students how to create photographic images outside the darkroom. Polaroid transfer images take on a playful quality with a watercolor appearance. Both Kodak and Fuji have discontinued the film needed for these photographs so this was a last chance to learn this technique.
- Spring Wisdom Ornaments – Art Therapist Sheilagh McGreal returned to do a class on the therapeutics of art therapy. She talked about how being creative can help relieve stress and create positive emotions in an anxious, fast-paced world. The students created OOAK (original one of a kind) Spring Wisdom ornaments, these ornaments are very popular in the craft world now and require no experience just imagination and creativity. McGreal brought natural items such as twigs and leaves to create these ornaments and students embellished with flowers, beads, fabric, and other items to design their figures.
• Artist at Work – The “Artist at Work” program featured multi-media artist Maia Horvath creating a collage before an attentive audience. In the Riedman exhibit cases, there was a display of Maia Horvath’s varied art work, from paintings and collage, to sculpture and jewelry.

• Rochester Writes programs continue to be popular and are going strong. Our classes have brought together a number of local aspiring writers who have become a support to one another as a result. We featured two new writing classes in April:
  o Local author & writing teacher, Gail Hosking, taught a *Writing Down the Bones* workshop to a group of aspiring writers. The class, named after the famed writing classic by Natalie Goldberg, guided participants in learning how to use the power of the unconscious during writing by trusting spontaneous writing and letting go of plans.
  o A two-part class called *Figurative Writing: Recipes for Mouthwatering Prose* was taught by instructor, Anais Salibian. Students learned about metaphor, simile, personification and metonymy – all figures of speech that appeal to the senses and lead to delectable prose.

**Outreach**

• Six ukuleles were loaned to the Irondequoit Library for one of their programs for youth.

• Librarian Mary Fraser staffed a table at the Hochstein Performance Hall during the Rochester Oratorio Society’s performance of Karl Jenkins’ “The Peacemakers.” She handed out bibliographies related to the work, had relevant books to be checked out and flyers for the performance at Central in June.

• Art librarian, Melissa Manzuk, taught another popular craft class at Lifespan in the Sibley Building. The group of enthusiastic crafters created coffee filter flowers. Everyone loved the opportunity to dye the filters in spring pastel colors. One participant said she couldn’t wait to make more.

**Collections**

The Central Library is now creating station collections at branch and town libraries. Central has large collections in many subject areas that are unfamiliar to town and branch library patrons. The first station collection focused on Poetry and was sent to the Hamlin Library. It is hoped that patrons who use these station collections will be inspired to visit Central to see other items in these subject areas.

**Business & Social Science, Darlene Richards reporting**

Sarah Bishopp Vélez represented the library at the RIT Center for Urban Entrepreneurship (CUE) roundtable. The main topic of discussion this month was the fact that Unite Us, the software company that had agreed to build out their database for entrepreneurial tracking purposes, pulled out of the agreement at the last minute. RIT CUE has received a generous grant from J.P. Morgan Chase to implement a tracking system that would allow various organizations throughout the City of Rochester to share information about how they have helped entrepreneurs and make referrals to other organizations more effectively. Their hope was to adapt the Unite Us database, currently used to track people going through social service agencies, for business tracking purposes. Partners at the CUE roundtable discussed alternatives to Unite Us, with SourceLink being presented by Lomax Campbell, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Wealth Building, as probably the next best possibility. All partners at the meeting agreed to go forward with contacting SourceLink for a demo.

**Programs**

• The BizKidS program – a weeklong camp through the City’s Recreation Dept. – came to the library during Spring Break to work on their business plans. Sarah Bishopp Vélez showed the teens resources available at the library that they could use to look at sample plans and other information helpful in writing their own. Because of time constraints,
BizKid$ opted to remain on the 4th floor for the entire two hours rather than split their time with Teen Central. This allowed them to make more progress on the business plans. A fun and educational time was had by all 19 attendees!

- Tax Program: Librarian Florence Morris and Brad Stanley from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance finished the tax program in the month of April. During the program 181 people were served with 149 tax returns prepared successfully. This program continues to be a successful partnership with the Division.

Outreach

- Sarah Bishopp Vélez and Business Division intern Jim Byrne staffed a table at the REOC Career Fair. The fair got off to a slow start when it opened at 10 a.m., but quickly filled with people interested in finding jobs or career resources. Byrne and Bishopp Vélez were kept busy the entire time, talking about the Central Library’s Job Information Center and all of the other wonderful resources available throughout RPL, including civil service exam guides, nursing exam books, free computer classes, English as a Second Language classes, and much more. A couple of REOC’s class instructors also stopped by and were very pleased about the information available to their students. This ended up being both a great outreach and networking event, with many fair attendees expressing surprise at all of the goings-on at the Central Library, and the REOC professors interested in future collaboration. Bishopp Vélez and Byrne had approximately 80 interactions with career fair attendees, with most of them being very meaningful, in-depth discussions.

- Renee Kendrot represented the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) at the Celebrate City Living Event on Saturday, April 13. Pat Connor, Emily Sarazyn, and Brian DiNitto also represented MCLS during this event. She informed individuals about the upcoming programs offered at the public libraries. Kendrot also provided information pertaining to the various items that can be borrowed on a library card such as the Empire Pass and the VIP passes. A total of approximately 400 people that stopped the MCLS table.

- Richards was kept very busy this month meeting with various individuals from nonprofits demonstrating the Foundation Directory Online and sources for grant seeking. She met with a grant writer from the YWCA, a volunteer from Rochester Diaper Bank, a student from SUNY Brockport, board member from Genesee Riverwatch and vice president of the advisory board of Parenting Village.

- Richards also answered a question regarding grants for setting up a nonprofit. The patron is currently a bus driver for RTS and is interested in acquiring a grant to open a school to train folks to earn their Commercial Driver’s Licenses for bus and truck driving. In the research he’s done, there is only one avenue locally for people to do it, and, having gone through the process himself, he thinks that there could be a better way and that it would be helpful for local residents.

- Richards and Bishopp Vélez went to visit the open house at the Two Saints Church. Richards has been working with two representatives from the nonprofit to assist them in finding funding for historic preservation. Friends of Historic Two Saint’s Inc. (FOHTS) was formed as a nonprofit, 501 c (3), secular organization for the sole purpose of raising funds for the ongoing restoration, preservation of the building that houses the church that Col. Nathaniel Rochester, our city’s namesake, helped start in 1817. Col. Rochester and many early business owners were church members that helped grow the small outpost of Genesee Falls into Rochesterville, which then became the city of Rochester.

Small Business Consulting

Sarah Bishopp Vélez handled several business reference questions this month, with most of them coming from students from the Business Opportunities Program (BOP) class who had seen her presentation on April 1. Some of the market research she provided was for the following industries or business types – accounting, food trucks, public relations firms, ethnic restaurants, home repair companies, in-home nursing services, and electrical supply companies. Darlene Richards also assisted small business customers with demographics for starting a day care, information pertaining to starting a recycling center.

Database Statistics:

ABI/INFORM: 16 sessions, 38 searches 112 documents
Business Market Research Collection: 13 sessions, 56 searches, 32 documents
Entrepreneur Database: 7 sessions, 19 searches, 2 documents
Ibisworld: 258 hits
Small Business Resource Center: 4 sessions, 13 full text retrievals, 7 searches
Value Line: 287 hits, 5998 searches, downloads: 2199
CQ Researcher 2 sessions, 92 page views, 12 searches, 18 documents
Children’s Center & MCLS Children’s Services, Tonia Burton reporting

- Tonia Burton met with Carla Stough-Huffman, Greater Rochester After School Alliance (GRASA). Stough-Huffman trained staff at a past children’s meeting on brain architecture and is interested in strengthening the relationship between the library system and GRASA. One possible collaboration would be for The Central Library to host the National Lights On After School Event. Community organizations serving children after school would bring children to the library for activities. It would also serve as a way to promote the Central Library to these organizations and extend invites for future visits.

- Burton joined Kelly Rosengren, East Rochester Library, for a mentoring meeting. The issue of part time library jobs is not just an issue for city branches. There are town libraries that also have part time librarians serving children and teens, two very different sectors of the population that requires making tough choices relating to services because storytimes for the youngest crowd are more successful in the morning and teen services happen in the afternoon. Often children’s services are valued more than teen services which is also an issue.

Outreach/Community Contacts
Dr. Lisa Hiley, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Nazareth College and Burton have been talking about the need for assessing library services for children. Burton expressed the desire to reach families who do not come to the library and assess how families perceive literacy programs offered in the library. Hiley created a project: The Utilization of Urban Public Libraries to Promote Summer Literacy: Perspectives of Diverse Families and was awarded a grant which will provide her with two students to carry out assessment throughout the summer. Several measures are proposed to explore the stated research questions as well as possibly embedded topics such as: access to literacy experiences; equality of and motivation for participation; valuing of literacies in home and community settings; cultural, linguistic and/or developmental modifications for participation and engagement; underlying perspectives of stakeholders on summer literacy experiences; and, congruence between the parents and library professionals in accessing summer literacy opportunities for young children during the summer months. This work has the potential to provide us with powerful data to help us evaluate and evolve our program offerings for families.

Education and Engagement
The Annual MCLS Children’s Services Retreat took place on April 10. Forty children’s services people enjoyed a day with Heather and Topher Holt. Topher is a local children’s musician and music educator. Heather is a small business owner with expertise in marketing. Last summer Topher noticed that every library he performed at had different ways of promoting his shows and when talking to his wife, she also found it difficult to easily find library program information. They spoke with Burton last August and began creating an all day workshop where Topher could help librarians be more comfortable using music as a way to direct behavior and infuse it into storytimes while Heather could share her knowledge of using social media to market the programs we have.

They day was active, reflective, and informative. There were group discussions with rotating groups so everyone moved around the room and had the chance to talk to people from other libraries. To close out the day, a raffle was held. Each library received raffle tickets based on the number of children’s meeting staff attended, if they hosted a meeting, or if someone from the library took notes for a meeting. This was a way to thank the people who richly contribute to children’s services and their libraries who support them. Prizes were beautiful puppets, magna tiles, or books that will be added to the library. The day was made possible through the NYS Family Literacy Grant.
Programs

- Our Girl Scouts group was visited by two women working in STEM fields this month, Audiologist Dr. Jill Greinert from Rochester Hearing and Speech and aerospace engineer Kelly Mulvehill from Harris Corporation. Dr. Greinert talked to the girls about protecting their hearing, and Mulvehill talked about how engineers design and build things to solve problems. Girl Scout facilitator Krystal Osei led Scouts in designing a robot that solves a problem. The girls came up with creative designs to solve problems like repairing broken toys and cleaning their rooms. Next month, the group will be visited by a scientist, by Systemic, Inc., the Seneca Park Zoo Mobile, and Small Fry Art Studio.

- April Break was jam-packed with new, unique programs that brought many new families to the Children's Center. Jennifer Cesare ran a “Glo-ga” program that incorporated glow sticks, party lights, and stories through yoga movement.

- Local artist Eugene Commodore shared his talents with a full house of kids and tweens as he introduced them to some basic drawing techniques for “Make Your Own Comics” program. He is enthusiastic about presenting drawing programs with us in the future.

- The Central Library hosted the annual Month of the Young Child Celebration on April 1. This collaboration with members of the Early Childhood Development Initiative celebrated area early childcare providers and offered a viewing of some of the films that will be shown during the upcoming Rochester International Children’s Film Festival. Each year staff from member libraries partner with the Film Festival to provided showings at different libraries. Through a generous donation from the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, Burton was able to order books based on one of the movies. Each library participating will receive books to be given out to participants. The library members on the committee are Lauren Seaver (Intern at Central), Amy Joslyn (Fairport), and Patricia Connor (RPL). This year the committee selected Ants, a National Geographic Society.

- The Central Library also hosted Roc the Future’s Community Stakeholder meeting on April 5. Burton attended to participate in the parent engagement discussion. There were parents, some RCSD staff, and other organizations represented. There was a lot of discussion on how to get parents to attend meetings, what everyone knows is that childcare, transportation, and time of day are important. Many people echoed the need for evening meetings. Several people discussed best practices around parent engagement or parent partnerships. Burton shared that there is a lot of discussion about what parents are not doing but suggested using the Raising a Reader Parent of the Month Award as a model for encouraging parents and the difference that has made to RAR parents.

Circulation/Information Services, Chad Cunningham reporting

New Borrowers – 177
RRLC Access cards – 4
Notarial Acts – 175

Programs
Brian DiNitto taught 11 computer classes. Michael Reiss taught 1 computer class.
Anecdotes

- The Information Desk staff were able to help an older couple set up their medical transport business. They had to file a number of papers with New York State online and the process was quite involved. They had very detailed directions from the state and considerable patience, so everything eventually got finished. It was a unique and somewhat confusing process, and they were very grateful for the assistance through it all.
- A couple of times this month, an elderly patron came into the library to have some fun watching cooking shows. It is always an enjoyable visit for him to come in and watch his favorite programs online. During one of his recent visits, he also wanted help getting a recipe for cabbage (which included bacon!). He was hoping to find a new way to enjoy cabbage. When he came back a few days later, he let us know his appreciation again for the help looking up his recipe and reported that the cabbage was very tasty.
- A patron came up to the Information Desk asking for walking directions to Buffalo. DiNitto printed out walking directions from Google Maps (22 hrs. for travel time).
- A patron had to pay a fine to clear his driving record so he could start a new job driving for Medical Motor Service. The City Traffic Office told him that he had to pay the fine online, not at their offices. He had no clue how to operate a computer to process this payment. He came to the library and in about 10 minutes working with an Information Librarian, he paid the ticket and cleared his driving record. He was extremely grateful that he took care of the issue and that he could start the new job the next day. The patron contacted library staff to let them know that he is working at this new job, and that his mother was so grateful to the Library staff that she wishes to make brownies for the staff.
- A patron came in with a thumbnail photo of him (at 3 yrs. old) and his mother. He worked with the staff and using the scanner, enlarged the picture to a full-sheet. He was very grateful in enlarging this only picture of him and his mother.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler presented one session in her popular TGIS: Think Genealogy It’s Saturday series at Central Library, entitled “Census.” She also presented two workshops off site this month: “Library Resources and Ancestry” at the Webster Public Library and “Finding Your Roots & Library Resources” at Lifespan Rochester.
- This month’s offering in the Rochester’s Rich History Series was “Freedom – A Shared Sacrifice.” Former Wayne County historian Marjory Perez spoke on her new book of the same title, chronicling the contributions of African-American Civil War soldiers from Central and Western New York.
- The division also sponsored three programs related to the Stonewall: 50 Years Out exhibit. These included “Perspectives on Rochester’s Deaf LGBTQ+ History,” which included a documentary film screening and panel discussion led by Bryan Lloyd of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID); a Lesbian Visibility Day celebration featuring Bek Orr, an assistant professor of Women & Gender Studies at the State University of New York, College at Brockport; and the second session of “Your Silence Will Not Protect You! – The writing of Audre Lorde Reading and Discussion series,” facilitated by Tokeya Graham, associate professor of English at Monroe Community College.

Exhibitions

- The Central Library’s community curated exhibition, Stonewall: 50 Years Out, opened in the Anthony Mascioli Gallery on April 5, and will run through July 20, 2019. The First Friday opening reception was a huge success, with more than 200 people in attendance. The exhibition has since attracted favorable attention from library patrons, local LGBTQ+ community members, and the New York State Museum, which is featuring the exhibition in the June issue of its publication, New York History.
- The library’s traveling suffrage exhibition, Because of Women Like Her...Winning the Vote in New York State, went on display this month at the Richardson-Bates House Museum in Oswego, NY. Run by the Oswego County Historical Society, the museum is featuring our exhibit alongside their own display about Dr. Mary Walker, a suffragist, dress reform advocate, Civil War surgeon, and the only woman so far to be awarded the Medal of Honor.
- Remembering Lewis Henry Morgan has been extended and will stay on display in the exhibits hall outside the Local History & Genealogy Division until June 15. One visitor left the following in the exhibit guest book: “As an African American male, reading about a European man having so much passion towards a nation of people, that in [his] time was not popular, truly showed me what courage looks like and what it does. Display well done!!” The guestbook
includes many positive comments about the Morgan display, but this one stands out because it demonstrates how our Local History exhibits can—and do—resonate with library patrons in meaningful ways.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- City Historian/Historical Services Consultant Christine L. Ridarsky and Deputy Historian/Historical Researcher Michelle Finn gave a presentation on National History Day at the annual Rochester City School District’s Social Studies Conference. Elizabeth Call, Special Collections Outreach Librarian, University of Rochester Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation, co-presented. They have been working closely with Steve LaMorte, Executive Director of Social Studies, Rochester City School District, to launch a new program, National History Day for Rochester City Schools. The conference was the first step in recruiting teachers to participate during the 2019-20 school year. The team will be offering summer continuing education classes for teachers and working alongside them and their students in the fall help them select topics, access primary source materials, and prepare their entries for a city-wide competition to be held at the library prior to the regional competition at the Genesee Country Village & Museum in the spring.

- The division hosted a hands-on workshop for a group of 24 seventh-grade students and their teachers from Rochester School #8 as part of their introduction to a unit on Frederick Douglass. Ridarsky and Finn prepared five station activities for them to explore while they were here. The activities helped students to learn what Rochester in Douglass’s time, Douglass’s family, and the ways in which he used photography and the media to promote abolition and African American civil rights. FT Librarian II Gabe Pellegrino assisted the students in using City Directories and maps at three stations, while Ridarsky guided them through the other two stations.

- Brandon Fess visited the Sisters of St. Joseph archives at the Motherhouse on French Road where met archivist Kathleen Urbanic and discussed access policies for their collections pertaining to the Rochester’s Catholic orphanages and the members of the Sisters, which are of interest to many of our division’s genealogy patrons. Detailed information regarding contents and access will be shared at our next staff meeting.

Collection Development and Maintenance

- April saw steady progress in collection maintenance. Fess carried out routine filing of pamphlets and ephemera over the course of the month, and provided guidance to Page Jordan Wallace in his ongoing project of sorting and reorganizing clipping files. Fess continued rearranging materials in the Document Cases in order to consolidate named collections and also continued work on the map indexing project.

- Fess completed arrangement and description of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad records, the Seward family papers, and the Ward family papers. She also began work on the Collection of Bills and Receipts, the Albert G. Smith papers, and the Stewart family papers

Digital Projects

New York Historic Newspapers completed the process of replacing the flawed scans of the Beobachter mentioned in the March report; the corrected images are now up on the website: http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031185/.

Rochester Voices

Mason Lezette (RIT) completed his internship this month. Working under Finn’s supervision, Lezette developed content (narrative with images and captions) that will be used to create a digital exhibit on the Erie Canal. This exhibit will be added to RochesterVoices.org, complementing the educational resources being developed as part of the “Erie Canal for the Classroom” project, also managed by Finn and funded through an Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor grant.

Social Media

Staff from the Local History and Genealogy Division contributed content for 15 social media posts in April: four (4) on Twitter, four (4) on Facebook, five (5) Facebook Events, and one (1) blog entry on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. The reach of these posts was 18,073. This includes 13,651 on Facebook, 2,125 on Twitter, and 2,297 on our blog; 648 people engaged with Local History posts on Facebook, four (4) on Twitter, and 118 on our blog. Library Assistant Emily Morry contributed two (2) blog entries this month. The first, “(Summerville) Beach Boy: The Rochester Roots of Al Jardine,” had a reach of 662, engaged 14 viewers, and generated nine (9) link clicks. Her second blog post, “From Liquors to Bitters: The History of the Fee Brothers, Pt. 1,” had a reach of 1635, engaged 104 viewers, and generated 50 link clicks. Morry’s post from late March, “Out of the Loop Pt. 5: A Before and After Look at the Neighborhoods of the Inner Loop,” had a reach of
1,389, engaged 48 people, and generated 58 link clicks in April. (Data for this post is not included in the April statistics as this post was technically from the previous month.)

Anecdotes /Other
Local media personality, Josh Nichols, WROC’s meteorologist, visited the division this month to gather data and footage for his report on the “year without a summer” – 1816. In that year, the massive volcanic explosion of Mount Tambora in present day Indonesia caused an unusual weather pattern throughout much of the world. An ash cloud shaded much of the Northern Hemisphere for three months, resulting in catastrophic crop failures across much of the globe. Nearly 100,000 people died at the site of the explosion; thousands more died from disease and food shortages. Economies reeled from the loss of agricultural production. Killing frosts persisted across New York and New England until mid-June or later. Quebec had a foot of snow in the second week of June. Surely, Nichols surmised, the nascent community known then as Rochesterville must have been reeling under the devastating shift in the weather.

But, wait. With much assistance from reference staff, Nichols discovered quite the contrary. Rochesterville’s temperatures were close to normal that summer, perhaps even higher than usual. Crops here were abundant, even as farmers only a few miles away lost an entire year’s harvest to disastrous frosts. In fact, the village’s flour production soared to more than 10 times the amount of the previous year. And with crops so scarce, prices soared, filling local farmers’ and millers’ pockets. Markets could absorb anything they had to sell.

In a year that could have delivered a crushing loss to the newly formed community, 1816 was a boon for Rochesterville. The year marked the beginning of the milling industry that would earn this city the moniker “The Flour City.”

As Nichols explained, the same lake effect that generously blankets the area with 100 inches of snow per year may have saved local harvests and allowed Rochesterville to feed many people who might have otherwise gone hungry. You can view Nichols’ story here: https://www.rochesterfirst.com/weather/weather-week-the-year-without-a-summer-rochester-history/1972168474?fbclid=IwAR2hfrsZJbyut2VnsmjML-I2t6i39YN7r2KGo2H1DguBB8xOKASwrWyK2g.

Volunteer/Intern hours
Volunteers from the Rochester Genealogical Society contributed 21 hours in April and assisted 12 patrons. We were also aided by three volunteers (Ira Srole – 25.5 hours; Kevin Allen 8.75; and Noeme Liestman – 15.5 hours) and two college interns (Mason Lezette, RIT – 10 hours; Katie Keegan, RIT – 4.5 hours). In all, volunteers and interns contributed 85.25 hours.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference
During the month of April, RMC handled 1,554 reference questions and 399 non-reference transactions and for a total of 1953.

Circulation
In March, RMC rented 10 pieces of equipment and circulated 11,616 items or 44% of the Central Library’s total circulation of 22,445 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added).

Hoopla
Hoopla circulations for April totaled 1266: (311 movies/tv, 559 audiobooks, 110 music, 203 e-books, 83 comics.) 350 patrons used the service during April with 41 new users registering and 83 patrons using all seven circs (24%). Average cost was $2.06/item.

Programs
• Our First Friday Film series on April 5th showed the movie “The Mercy”.
• Saturday April 20th was our See It First movie. We presented the movie “Glass”.
• Friday April 26th was the Short Films Sandwiched In, This month’s category was “Fish Out of Water” shown through various short films.

**Displays/Exhibits**

• The Reynolds Media Center created a display for National Poetry Month.
• RMC also created new Music CDs and new BOCD displays as well as a set of trailers from recent film releases purchased by RMC.
• The Reynolds Media Center produced 3 brochures listing new acquisitions in DVD, Music CD and BOCD formats.
• RMC also posted 3 stories to Facebook, including the most viewed post of the month about The House of Guitars with 5.8k views and 58 shares.

**Science & History, Jen Byrnes reporting**

**Programs**

• Screening of the PBS documentary American Creed – part of the ALA American Creed grant.
• American Creed panel discussion – Facilitated by Dr. Timothy Kneeland of Nazareth College. Panelists included Adam Chodak (WROC-TV), Julie Philip (D&C), Lomax Campbell (City of Rochester), Hubert Van Tol (Pathstone), and Kent Gardner (The Beacon).
• Got Health - Drugs, Alcohol & Other Substances: There is an impact for all of us. The presenter was Patrick Seche, MS, CASAC, Director of Strong Recovery and Sr. Associate in Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center.
• Adult Lego Program: this program also has been popular with tweens/teens that age out of the Lego programs in the Children’s Center.
• Rochester Inventors Group: This group networking group meets monthly at the Central Library and discusses aspects of the intellectual property process.

**Partner Organization Statistics**

Library Resource Outreach Center – 102
Volunteer Legal Services Project – 12
Nurse Barb - 40
STI Testing – 3, all negative
360 Collaborative Network Referrals – 3

**Outreach**

As part of the ALA American Creed grant, Byrnes presented on the importance of being a good citizen at Seton Catholic School. The sixth graders were provided with pizza, a pocket version of the U.S. Constitution, and the book it’s Your World by Chelsea Clinton.

**Consulting**

• Byrnes met with a local optics company to discuss market research services and a group of 5 students from the Simon School to teach them how to use Central databases.
• Carlson Center for Intellectual Property: 15 in person, 2 by email, 1 by mail, 5 by phone, 1 Patent Virtual Assistance Center appointments, 49 Webpage views.
• Anthony has been working on getting two PTRC databases up to date with the IT department, PubEAST and PubWEST. There were nine 3D printing requests were fulfilled. Meddaugh and Anthony spent a considerable amount of time preparing for the Center’s 20th anniversary celebration on May 30th.
Database Usage
Frost & Sullivan – 8 downloads – value: $24,000.
InnovationQ Patent Search Tool – 12 users.
VentureSource – Six searches.

Anecdotes
- A gentleman in Oregon is writing an article of the history of the book *Cookery of the Old South* (translated from Southern Lore) from 1935. There are only 18 known copies in the world and Central has one of them. He requested a picture of the front cover because there are different versions. The metal bindings of this book are truly unique.
- Nash helped several AP World History students who came to Central during spring break to seek materials for their project on globalization since 1945. Parents and students were very pleased with the excellent resources available in the Science and History and Business Divisions.
- Nash also fielded an “Ask the Librarian” inquiry from a member of a group that seeks peace on the Palestinian/Israel issue offering funds to purchase additional books on the topic and a list of suggested titles. The patron was put into contact with Ned Davis and Nash will move forward with this new special collection.
- Levi assisted a patron in accessing the Mitchell ProDemand Database. The patron searched for the information alone for a long time but had not been successful. He was looking for a schematic and they were able to find it. He was totally ecstatic and said that “I was looking for this for weeks and I really need this information, I am so happy that I could just hug you and pick you up and swing you around right now.” They both laughed and Levi told him that she was delighted that they found what he needed.

Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs
- The Mock Trial being hosted by the library and run by RIT, concluded its two month journey with a trial held in the Kate Gleason Auditorium this month.
- RYSAS tutors continued to use the library space this month. With sometimes over twenty-five kids, they handled all needs. One of the students who completed a track on the original album F.A.M.O.U.S that the library released, has been regularly working with staff during off hours to complete his very own full album complete with bonus tracks. The album was released this month. Staff helped design all the graphics for this album. Just search up “Z3ke Nova” via google, you’ll find his stuff. Here’s a link for one of the songs: https://www.iheart.com/artist/z3ke-nova-32675501/songs/adore-69612183/
- Jeffery Bostic classes continue to instill a desire to gain more knowledge. This is a DSLR camera capturing a falling ball in midair. What does it take to do that? Can you do that with your cellphone?
- On June 28th starting at 4 pm, Imagine YOU and Teen Central will be taking over the Kate Gleason Auditorium to show case this year’s CD release. Josh Pettinger has been working very hard with many teens to get this ready. He’s
also been interviewed by WBER and WDKX. Here’s the DKX interview: https://anchor.fm/wdkx/episodes/Jasmine--Rochesters-ImagineYOU-Program-e3sjg6/a-ae4dj2

- Antoine McDonald was able to meet with a couple of high school students who are currently in the process of applying for colleges and assisted them in completing the general application that can be sent to the 34 different Historically Black Colleges and Universities. McDonald is looking forward to repeating this program several times over again in the coming months with various groups of high school students.

Outreach/Community Contacts/ Meetings
- Dennis Williams continued working with Generation Youth and many of their mentors who wish to use the imagine you lab.
- We make the lab available during its ‘closed’ times: weekdays from 10 to 3pm.
- Williams was invited to the YSQ awards ceremony at the Lyric Theatre and received an award for the Teen Center, and all the tough, but meaningful work the center does.

ImagineYOU Updates

432 Visitors

E-Sports
We may have underestimated the impact of Fortnite due to the fact that this month teens were caught watching videos of Fortnite on YouTube while playing Fortnite on our computers.

Virtual Reality
The numerous records on BeatSaber held by Bostic began to fall this month with kids discovering how to add difficulty modifiers to beat his score. Some kids also enjoyed just playing for fun. Check out videos of both. https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EcCI2Q3wtpLupExUG05gwB2tdr3WsltcglbFu9HMVw?e=Oy0Hlm

https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/ESqO5E8rIUFKqLhHqno2f-lB6i3Z9tSeYqEDEpStjDAwXA?e=cdgeD1

Saturday Classes
This month’s classes included Camera, Photoshop, Video Editing, and illustrator classes. Although a smaller number of students were present, they were more focused and dedicated to learning the skills.

Glass Room
The glass room popularity continues to sky rocket since the addition of the recording equipment. The end of each day is usually spent emailing teens the songs they have recorded in the glass room.

Branch Library Updates
Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

United Way - African American Leadership Development Program (AALDP) I was asked to be a part of the nominating committee for the next AALDP cohort that begins in June 2019. I assisted with interviews, decision making and nominations of new candidates.
**Branch Retreat**

On April 18, 2019, the Branch Retreat was held at The Port to discuss the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan final report and recommendations. More than 100 RPL branch staff attended and enthusiastically participated. The primary goal of the retreat was to engage staff in a critical and collaborative format to assess the final report, provide feedback, and write a response to the proposed set of recommendations from Hester Street. Staff were asked to discuss within their branches what Hester Street got right, what they missed, what staff agree and disagree with in the report, and staff alternatives to Hester Street recommendations. The discussion was lively and thorough. The branch supervisors have compiled their branch recommendations and submitted them. Management will review and begin to map out a strategy for fulfilling as many recommendations as possible. Progress will be shared with the Board as we move forward.

**Workplace Inspections**

During the month of April, Joan Lee, Jeff Moore (City, Safety Coordinator) and I continued to conduct workplace inspections throughout the library branches. The inspections are designed to help identify hazards and efficiencies throughout the branches. Our primary goal is to assess office space and determine safety concerns. Upon completion, a final report will be submitted to senior management with recommendations.

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

The Arnett site: Shetora Banks facilitated a field trip to “A Gamer’s Nostalgia” video arcade. The youth were able to play a variety of STEM associated digital games. The group had three girls who actively game and they tried VR (virtual reality) and sports games that many of the boys dominate. Banks has been proactive in getting teen girls exposed to the digital gaming and media arts culture. She continues to provide job readiness assistance to teens seeking work. In addition, she continues to post and share teen job opportunities with the entire Safe to be Smart staff.

The Phillis Wheatley site: Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford facilitated a field trip to the movie *Avengers Endgame*. The movie had a long line and was over 3 hours long. The youth still loved it! She hosted a “Mix and Mingle,” popcorn variety day for all the youth at Phillis Wheatley branch. The children’s librarian, Alexandria, assisted with passing out cups of delicious popcorn to youths. Bostick-Beckford also facilitated a “Star Wars Day.” The youth created lightsabers out of swimming pool foam noodles. Lastly, Bostick-Beckford hosted “Play Station Game Day” for all the youths. The youth played in the teen space with a new online games account.

The Maplewood site: Mark Dixon facilitated a spelling bee competition for the youth at Maplewood. Dixon had a teen volunteer, Armani, to assist with the competition. The words were chosen according to each youth’s grade level. Dixon and Armani gave out prizes to the winners. Dixon’s youth population at Maplewood is mostly New Americans.

The Lincoln site: Vera Haygood continues to provide ongoing assistance for internet usage, email set-up, homework help, and job search and online applications for teens. She recognized that April was National Poetry month and posted poems in the teen space to inspire youth to write. Haygood was assisting a teen with homework that turned into the teen providing her with a lesson in terminology for technology. The student opened up the online course and helped Haygood understand technology terms she was unfamiliar with. This teachable moment encouraged the teen to do more homework assignments and bonded them to a closer relationship.

The Sully site: George Carter facilitated a teen group reading session with the assistance of the YA/librarian, Jacob Bigelow. Carter selected the book called, “Long Way Down.” Carter has the teens read paragraphs from the book aloud. If a youth does not want to read they don’t have to but the strong peer encouragement and helpfulness ensures that they all read a paragraph or two. Carter asks probing questions about the reading to spur discussions about current life events or situations the teens may be going through.

Teen Central site: Lydia Williams and John Hylton have been continuing to be hyper-vigilant in Teen Central quelling gang violence, gang recruitment, and bullying of any kind. They have been encouraging and rewarding teens that help keep the teen space safe and in order with gift-cards and positive reinforcement through one-on-one and group mentoring. Williams recognized two “Shining Teens,” for the month: Sam and Lataarius. She said, “These two have made a song on the
imagineYOU album and they are on track to graduate from the School of the Arts in June.” Hylton has been interviewing teens that are positive achievers in Teen Central and imagine YOU. He said, “Rapper Zeke continues to show us his passion for music and he wants the world to hear his voice. Zeke recently interviewed on WDKX podcast.” Hylton also said, “Female artist Sydney has found comfort to express herself through art and has met a local artist who has granted her an internship to help younger teens with their artwork at a local studio.” Williams and Hylton facilitated a scavenger hunt with Teen Central staff (Antoine McDonald and Dennis Williams) and students. The teens had to go through out the library to different divisions to complete tasks for gift cards and prizes. Hylton facilitated a digital gaming discussion with males in Teen Central. He made sure all the participants had a voice in the conversation. Hylton has assisted with teaching teens basic chess along with Dennis Williams who plays with teens that request his presence almost daily! Hylton continues to sweep the Central library for truant youth that should be in school during school hours. During the month of April, Hylton contacted at least 8 high school aged youths. As always, Hylton followed up with getting the teens story and making phone calls, recommending other youth services agencies or asking them to leave until 2pm when the Teen Center opens.

Branch Administration, Patricia Connor reporting

Programs
Patricia Connor worked with Amy Joslyn and Lauren Seaver, both of the Fairport Public Library, to schedule and coordinate showings of the Rochester International Children’s Film Festival at fourteen public libraries in Monroe County. Those in attendance at the showings received a copy of the book Ants by Melissa Stewart, donated by the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The kickoff for this event, part of the Month of the Young Child was held in the Kate Gleason auditorium. (Priority #1—Education and Engagement)

Community Outreach
- Connor attended the OACES Community Breakfast along with Shamika Fusco (Lyell Site Supervisor). The breakfast offered the opportunity for attendees to receive an overview of OACES programs, a panel comprised of Students and partners who discussed how OACES impacts lives, suggestions for community involvement and a tour of the facility. (Priority #2—Sustainability and Resources)
- Connor, along with Maria Heeks-Heinlein (Sully Site Supervisor), participated at the Spring into Summer event presented by the Rochester Police Department Good Section and the Southeast Safety Net Office. Parents and children were able to gather information about summer programs—including upcoming library events, summer camps, job readiness programs and summer recreation.

Community Meetings
Information gathered at meetings of the NBN6 Neighborhood, Bensonhurst Neighborhood, Monroe Avenue Merchants, Southeast Quadrant Team, and the Rochester City School District School Librarians Council were shared with Branch staff. Connor is working with Corinne Clar to provide a bookmark with Summer Reading information at the branch libraries for City School Librarians to send home with City School District students at the end of the year. Clar will provide a PDF and the school librarians will print for their students.

Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs
- With the promise of approaching spring, Nancy Cholewa’s teens and children celebrated with spring-like activities. They decorated wooden eggs with paint markers, stickers and other items. These birch eggs were light and unbreakable and could be added to baskets or nestled into planters or hidden around the house. The following week the teens made baskets from cardstock and decorative paper. These baskets could be used as Easter baskets or to hold gifts or trinkets, as desired. The kids had fun creating both the eggs and the baskets, letting their imaginations guide them in their creations.
During the April school break, Cholewa and Shetora Banks had a Henna artist come in to work with the teens. While teens used the henna kits to tattoo themselves and/or each other, they learned about the ceremonial uses of Henna in some cultures and the meanings behind different shapes and designs.

Cholewa kept the teens busy later in the week by creating nail polish gems and mounting them on metal cabochons to be made into earrings, necklaces or charm bracelets. These gems were created by painting several layers of nail polish onto a clear “florist marbles.” The teens could create unique gems by choosing different colors of polish and different types of polish, sparkle, crackle or smooth.

Cholewa also facilitated Arnett’s portion of the county wide Children’s Film Festival. The children had loads of fun. The attending children voted on each of the films and enjoyed three activities to go along with three of the movies. One movie was about flying so afterward Cholewa and the children made paper airplanes out of different types of paper to see which would fly the farthest. Another of the movies was about hot air balloons so after watching the movie Cholewa had a contest to see which pair of viewers could keep a balloon in the air the longest while they batted it back and forth. After the movie about animation, Cholewa helped the children make “flip books” that made dots dance around the page when it was flipped through. Everyone had lots of fun and the kids headed home with their balloons, their flip books and a book about ants (which was the subject of another of the movies).

Perhaps the children’s program Arnett staff members enjoyed the most was an April Fool’s Day activity. I left a bunch of small prizes for staff to hand out anytime a child successfully made them smile. This resulted in kids pouring through joke books and then running up and reciting the jokes to staff members. Needless to say, kids nabbed a bunch of prizes. (Priority 1: Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations.)

Adult Librarian Ginger-Brewer-Bennet also conducted several programs this month. On March 21 and 28, Friends and Family delegate, Deb Leary hosted an ArKnit knitting workshop. The third class took place on April 4. Beginners as well as those with light experience enjoyed socializing while working on a knitting project. Leary stated, “Everything was wonderful. It was different watching everyone’s level of experience but so enjoyable.” Leary will let us know if she wants to do another class in the future.

The Eastman Pathways Concert 2019 was held on April 13. Arnett hosted the last concert of a four part series. The featured performers were Women of Note who sang songs about “Rochester weather.” The women were absolutely awesome as they harmonized the four seasons of the city of Rochester and had the audience bopping, clapping, dancing and singing. Many members of the audience commented on how much they really enjoyed their singing and how they loved events like this at the library. Truly delightful!

Once again the Rochester Regional Health’s Mobile Mammography Center, Rochester Regional visited the Arnett Library on April 22, as together we encourage women to get mammograms. In an effort to ensure that women are receiving proper care, RRH provides a mobile center with state of the art screenings, a spa like atmosphere, dressing rooms for privacy and board certified radiologists. Walk-ins are accepted and no insurance is needed. RRH will be at Arnett every 4th Monday from 8:00 am -Noon. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships)

Anecdotes/Other
Ginger Brewer-Bennett provided the following information on a display she created for the library. This month’s display honored National Poetry. The display included poems from the first lady of poetry, Phillis Wheatley, as well as works from Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, William Shakespeare, Richard Wright, Allen Ginsberg, Nikki Grimes, Suzannah Showler, Langston Hughes, Antwone Fisher, Jill Scott, Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, Ai, Harold Bloom, John Milton, Brian Swann and plenty of others. The display also included different styles of poetry, how to write poetry, the statistics of
William Shakespeare, Maya Angelou’s “And Still I Rise” and a list of famous poets throughout history. Patrons complimented on how nice the display looked and how they want to read every book present. A patron observed Brewer-Bennett helping another patron and provided me with a note that said of Brewer-Bennett, “She has the patience of Job from the Bible. She tirelessly deals with demanding people. Extra Gold Stars for Extreme Patience!!”

Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs

• We had a schedule of enriched activities in the Children’ Room for spring break. Children’s librarian Kim Whittemore had Tina Stevens of Monroe County Environmental Services give an update on recycling. The program was billed for kids and families, but the audience had a lot of adults. I do have a sense that environment programs will be more in demand in the next few years and will be looking for good programs to meet the interest. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations).

• Whittemore also had Liz Bauld, who bills herself as “The Storybook Cook”, read the children’s book The Runaway Wok. Then Bauld guided the kids in making a vegetable stir-fry lunch. The program was well-attended and it did get kids to eat lots of vegetables, though the library had a faint aroma of Chinese take-out for the rest of the day!

• Drew Beeman of Progressive Early Learning also did a program for us during spring break. Beeman specializes in creating pop-up indoor playgrounds for younger children, with activities focusing on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math). The kids enjoyed a variety of play activities that included sand, water and building blocks. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships).

Anecdotes

• During the last week of April our new city-owned copier was installed and we were given some rudimentary training in using it. It’s reasonably intuitive in most things, though the cash handling procedure for the machines is a bit involved. The new machines have several improved capabilities, and we’re delighted that charges for faxing have been reduced. My biggest fear was that the new copier station, which comprises three separate units, would take too much room in our space-limited facility, but in fact it does not take up a great deal more space than the previous copier.

• April 9, was Library Worker Appreciation Day and the RPL management team surprised staff with a delivery of goodies. We walked in to a lavish gift of several kinds of candy, including some gourmet jellybeans that at least two people rated as the best ever. This staff has a sweet tooth and the candies, as well as the thought behind them, were most appreciated. (Priority #3 Stewardship and Curation: Develop, support and Appreciate staff)

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

• Sarah Ngo visited her site at ABC Headstart on Joseph Ave twice in April to read stories. One visit occurred during a half day of school, so the classes were very low in attendance, but not in spirit. The kids really are enjoying having an outside person come in to read stories and talk with them. Ngo visited School #41 twice during the month and read
stories about boats and birthdays. The preschoolers enjoyed being able to sing “Happy Birthday” to Miss Sarah and talk about their own birthday celebrations.

- Make & Take Craft with Miss Caitlyn during Spring Break week was a big hit. Stahovic-Barnes put out supplies for kids to decorate eggs on heavy paper. Supplies included glitter glue, markers and construction paper. Stahovic-Barnes and Mr. Isaac (Literacy Aide) each picked out different board games for kids to play during a rainy Friday during break week. The games ranged from Kerplunk to Uno and Headbanz.

- Isaac Lewis started as a Literacy Aide. Ngo showed him new board games and card games to try with the kids. The kids are really warming up to more involved, turn-based games like Blokus and Sushi Go.

- The Storybook Cook, Liz Bauld, made a visit to make spring treats. Everyone made treats from pretzels, cookie butter, raisins, celery, and white chocolate and cream cheese. The least favorite was the cream cheese on celery with cheddar Goldfish. The cream cheese was colored blue to look like water. Not everyone enjoyed cream cheese but loved the cheddar Goldfish. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations)

- RCSD students had a half day on April 26. Some spent their long afternoon at the library and it was a rainy day. Stahovic-Barnes popped up a craft of making stickers and watching movies. The movies played were “Ralph Breaks the Internet” and “Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties.” These seemed to be the perfect activities for a rainy afternoon off from school.

- The Vegetarian InstantPot Cooking for adults program was cancelled due to lack of interest. We may try again in the summer and advertise it as a way to keep cooler but still make a quick and healthy dinner.

Anecdotes/Other

- I pulled into our parking lot April 30, and there was a professional photographer taking pictures of a young man named Shemari, who was in his graduation robes in front of our murals. As it turns out, Shemari used to attend School #12 and now he’s about to start his Master’s degree in school counseling at Liberty University. He connected very strongly with Shawn Dunwoody’s art and was so excited to have his photos taken here.

- Stahovic-Barnes helped out Alicia Gunther at the MCLS table for Flower City Comic Con at Blue Cross Arena. Stahovic-Barnes had never been to FLCC so it was a new experience and she had a blast. She along with other library volunteers showcased new technology the library has to offer along with other programs and items. The highlight was the Little Bit R2D2. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Expand our visible presence in our communities. Storm Troopers found the droid they were looking for!)
Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting.

Programs

- We’ve had a productive April. We had a visit from School #16 for story time and time in the Toy Library. We are thankful to Jennifer Nesbitt from Sully for providing story time and giving the School #16 group a fun experience—and also to Sarah Fitt-Romig in the Toy Library for hosting the group afterwards. Getting into the groove of things, we had an Easter egg craft soon after. The most energetic program was the Easter egg hunt. We had forty eight kids peel through our bookcases with eggs in their hands in seconds. One poor kid was deeply distressed by our 2 egg limit after having found 5 for himself. Luckily, he powered through it and gave some back so that everyone could have a fair amount.

- The Toy Library had the most number of visitors ever for the month of April and spring break was incredibly busy with 121 visitors on Monday, 119 on Tuesday, and 76 on Wednesday. In response to April being the "Month of the Young Child", Sarah Fitts-Romig and Monica Horowitz decorated the front showcase of the Lincoln Branch for the first time since Fitts-Romig began. We believe this drew in community families because many new families came to visit. We also created a colorful bulletin board inside the Toy Library focusing on the top ten values of play.

- Fitts-Romig conducted a 90-minute outreach program at the Brickstone senior living community on Elmwood Ave. There were 22 seniors and they had a lovely time together talking about play in their lives compared to play in the world of electronic devices. Fitts-Romig brought examples of the materials she and Horowitz have been developing for a loan. A member of the audience came up to Fitts-Romig at the conclusion and invited her to do a 30-minute version at Brighton Rotary’s June meeting. Fitts-Romig has set that up for June 17.

- Fitts-Romig also represented the Toy Library at the Play Roundtable at the Strong Museum on April 2. There were 70 people there to discuss defending play in classrooms K-2. I am hoping there will be more educators borrowing our materials now that so many more educators have seen examples of what we have to lend.

- During the month of April, Tim Ryan, YA Librarian, hosted a Wild Wings event. Wild Wings came into Lincoln and shared information about their rescued birds of prey including owls and falcons. They brought 4 different birds of prey in for the patrons to observe first-hand. Judge John from Wild Wings was very engaging and was able to capture everyone’s attention for the duration of the program. The patrons loved learning about and seeing up close these birds of prey that are not often seen in the urban environment that these patrons live in. Everyone was very attentive and polite and they are looking forward to Wild Wings returning to Lincoln in the summer as part of our summer reading program schedule. (*Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations*)

- We continue to offer the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and Neighbors as Partners (NAP) programs at the Lincoln Branch. The women in the NAP program continue to work on their community quilt and are looking forward to a presentation from Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Rochester in May.

- Throughout the month of April we also continued to have peer navigators from the Open Access Clinic visit Friday afternoons to table in the front lobby. While many individuals are hesitant to speak with the navigators about personal addiction in the library lobby, the navigators have reported several positive interactions as a result of visiting the library.
RPL Board Director’s Report—May 2019 (Continued)

- Lehman met with Estella Rivera from the Support to Aging Residents (STAR) program with the Catholic Family Services and Alzheimer’s Association in early May. In previous years, Rivera had arranged to bring some of her clients to the library once a month to take out materials and visit the library. Starting in May, she will start bringing clients here to the library again. We planned on visits in May and June to see how many individuals attend and will be planning for more visits in the following months if it is popular. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations).

Anecdotes
- Tim Ryan assisted Mrs. Rodriguez, the sister of Puerto Rican Festival founder, Domingo Martinez. Mrs. Rodriguez came to Lincoln with a variety of legal questions and documentation concerning her attempts to gain control over her brother’s estate. She explained that her lawyer needed court documents and certain personal papers faxed to him, but Mrs. Rodriguez had no idea the documents he needed as there were several hundred to sort through. Ryan placed a call to her attorney who was on vacation in Florida and the attorney explained what was needed. Ryan took the time to sit with Mrs. Rodriguez and sift through the documentation for what her attorney needed. He then helped her scan and email these documents to the attorney. Mrs. Rodriguez was very grateful for the assistance and brought him lunch a few days later in order to express her thanks.
- During the month of April the Roc Paint staff worked on the murals for the library. I met with Sarah Rutherford with Roc Paint to continue discussing the installation of the murals from the Roc Paint project. The murals will be installed on May 23, and we picked a date for an unveiling to the public on June 6, at 4:00 pm. The young woman who is featured in the mural (Taleah) will be joining us for the unveiling and reading one of her stories for attendees. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships).

Lyell Branch, Shamika Fusco reporting

Programs
- Make & Take Monday’s, Children could stop by the Children’s Room and make a fun craft all week! New crafts were released on Tuesdays. This month we created thumbprint flowers for the coming of spring!
- In honor of Earth Day, Mary Jane brings an array of recycled material that she collects from all avenues of life. Participants had an hour to take any material of their choice and create whatever their hearts desired.
- Also this month, we had a visit from Tina Stevens, an Environmental Educator with the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services. She presented the program Recycling Right, to some of our children and teens, and explained why we should recycle, and why it’s important to separate out the various recyclable materials.
We have devoted a new space to Children’s Art here in the Children’s Room! We have some talented artists amongst our young patrons, as well as enthusiastic colorers. We like to show off their bright work—Lyell’s Library Artist of the Month.

Lyell Branch Library sponsored a free trip to the Memorial Art Gallery. Participants car-pooled to the location and received an hour and a half guided tour. The highlighted exhibit was the Frederick Douglass Exhibit. In addition to participants receiving free admission into the museum, they also received a free family membership that is good for one year.

Flower City Pickers provided an array of colorful healthy food this month. Patrons were extremely grateful for all the fresh produce they were able to receive. (Priority #2 Sustainability & Resources)

Restore Rochester a RAPE Crisis and prevention program gave us a beautiful hand knitted scarf to promote and represent Sexual Assault Awareness month to encourage our patrons to complete notes of encouragement to those who have suffered. We created a beautiful book display on Sexual Awareness and Nichole LaVann a rape survivor came in to do a sexual assault awareness workshop. Each participant received the book “The Greatest Love” and also learned meditation strategies to deal with stress, anxiety, physical ailments or crises. (Priority #1 Education & Engagement)

Anecdotes/Other
Tax season brought in a multitude of patrons. Most of our patrons were looking to print, scan or fax tax forms to the IRS. This month we were able to translate directions on how to use the copier/fax machine in Spanish to make the machine more user friendly. Patrons are very appreciative of our efforts. Jennifer Cherelin received several different Excellent Service recognitions from patrons.

**Maplewood Community Library, Johann Buran reporting**

**Programs**

- Kayla Lappino started an anime/manga club that will meet on Thursdays and cover a range of topics such as manga, games, movies, K-pop, J-pop and cosplay. This club is open to tweens and teens and will also serve Korean or Japanese snacks. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations).
- April was National Poetry Month so there were a series of poetry activities for teens and tweens. We started off strong with Mad-lib poems which were a big hit with all the kids but especially the teens. They seemed to really enjoy using the names of people they know and other silly words to create crazy scenarios in a poetic style. They learned about acrostic poetry than wrote and illustrated a poem about an animal. They enjoyed the drawing part more than the writing part. For poems in their pockets there were two short forms, couplets and cinquains. The tweens, teens and children enjoyed creating their own poetry book or a blank book. There were three options; a poetry book made from the handouts of all the other poetry events, a spring coloring book, and one with blank pages. The last was the most popular followed by the coloring book. Some chose to write in the blank one while others drew pictures of Pokémon balls or K pop stars.
- The Maplewood Book Club read *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks which they enjoyed more than the prior selection. May’s selection is *My Sister’s Keeper* by Jodi Picoult.
• In April we decided to try holding a movie night for adults. The first film was *A Star is Born*, the most recent of the remakes. Popcorn was served. Attendance was poor but we will try again with a different type of movie and try to make it a monthly event to build attendance.

• To celebrate spring and show our freshly painted room we held family pot luck. Our first family potluck was successful with attendance of 12 adults and 9 children. Stephanie Gerspacher from ONA (Office for New Americans) attended and led a discussion regarding life in America to those that are New Americans. Zehra Erkan and Mehmet Demirtas from the Rochester Academy Charter School also attended and shared flyers for their school. In addition to New Americans attending there were several families from the neighborhood and both groups had the chance to interact and share a meal together.

• We held a second jewelry making session since it was requested by several patrons who couldn’t stay for the first program. Some of the things patrons created were cell phone charms, earrings and jeweled barrettes.

• We have started offering computer help on Friday mornings before the library is open. It is one-to-one help and can focus on any area of computers that can be challenging for patrons. *(Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations)*

• Citizenship classes are well attended. There continues to be dedicated volunteers that allow for more one-to-one opportunities to work on writing and reading in addition to the history and one hundred questions needed to be learned to pass the naturalization test.

• The English classes at the Maplewood Library are now being labeled ENL (English as a New Language) instead of ESOL (English as a Second Language). For some English might be their third language not their second. The acronym ENL is currently being used by NY State Department of Education which includes the Rochester City School District. Other school districts have also switched to using ENL to designate English language learners.

**Outreach**

DiSalvo visited the Nepali women at the RRRS (Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services) program. During one visited to RRRS she brought the idea of making pin cushions as a sewing project. While explaining the idea to their AmeriCorps intern one of the Nepali women overheard. She got excited about the idea and immediately wanted DiSalvo to help her make one. The other woman there also wanted one – so before DiSalvo left she had completed two impromptu pin cushions! *(We won’t be surprised if when we get back again everyone has one!)* *(Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations)*.

**Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg reporting**

**Programs**

• Children’s Librarian Margaret Paige reports that we had a total of 40 participants enter to win stuffed animals. Each raffle ticket was earned by visiting the library, reading a book (or being read to), or checking out at least two library books. While the box for Large Elephant was the most stuffed full, participants also entered to win a pink frog, Dumbo, and Garfield. These stuffed animals were donated to the library many months ago, and so our efforts to clean up the back room and promote reading were duly rewarded. Due to the overwhelming response, we decided to reward in three categories based on participation. Category 1 with 10 entries had one winner, Category 2 with 9 entries had one
winner, and Category 3 with 8 entries had four winners. Participants in each of these categories were invited to select a book to keep from our (Birthday) Book Club Treasure Chest.

- Another reading raffle, you say? Why, of course! Our Spring Break raffle ran from April 13 - April 20. We had 53 entries for prizes in the display case. Following the same format as the March Reading Raffle for the large stuffed animals, tickets were earned for each library visit, for each time at least two library books were checked out, and for each program attended. There were 16 participants and, since we had a greater quantity of smaller items, everyone won a prize!

- Creative Writing Workshop: During spring break, we had a popular creative writing workshop. I was very happy with our attendance throughout the week. Monday: 9 students; Tuesday: 12 students; Wednesday: 9 students and Friday: 7 students for a total of 37. This class was taught by Melissa Hopkins. I’ve been working with her for a number of years. I work with her on the cursive writing workshops and the series, Monroe Reads to End Racism.

- Hopkins also taught this creative writing class. The students were happy just quietly working on their stories. In our evaluation of this workshop, a number of the students wanted this program to be longer. It was held from 10:30 – noon. A number of them simply wanted more time to sit quietly and write.

- Rebecca Hudson, Teen Services Librarian posed a new question just for National Poetry Month.

- Blackout Poetry is the idea to selectively black out words from a printed page to create your own found poem.

- Think Better, Feel Better: This program was presented by Rhea Zweifler, LCSW. For a workshop like this, we limit attendance to about 10 people. On Monday, April 29, we had 8 people attend this program. In this program, people learned the basics of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and the strategies that you can apply to the difficulties of daily life. We will continue to offer these kinds of programs.

- On April 2, Scheg was interviewed by some RIT students for their “Sustainable Communities Projects.” This project examined the impact of community farmers markets. They wanted to learn about the neighborhood and the role of the Monroe Village Farmers Market. We had 11 people participate in this program. The food that was donated went to supply our Food Truck. I think it would be a good idea to offer this program across RPL for a 2/3 week period. In addition, having a 1 week amnesty for lost items may be a positive way to get people back using the library.

**Outreach & Community Involvement**

- During Margaret Paige’s School # 23 kindergarten visits, old books were returned and new books were checked out. On April 23, 2019, around 60 books flowed and ebbed through the classroom bookshelves. While the hardcovers from last month’s visit and story time about snails, worms, and goldfish were returned, new books mainly pertaining to chicks were checked out. Story time included a wordless book *The Chicken and the Egg* by Eila and Enzo Mari and either *Chicken Chickens* by Valeri Gorbachev or *Blue Chicken* by Deborah Freedman. The stories shared were a great
complement to their classroom learning and, especially in the case of the wordless book; the students’ prior knowledge was retrieved and shared with this humble chicken novice. The students were patiently awaiting the mail-order arrival of ten chicks per classroom. As of 11:00 am on the day of the visit the chicks were “in transit to the next facility,” which was a huge change from where they were at her arrival around 9:45 am. At that hour a mere shipping label had been created. As a way to draw their outward attention inward, and in some way relate to the theme of the day, Paige likes to bring in something from the natural environment to each classroom visit. Paige brought the outer shells of magnolia blossoms and told the story of how she found them and described the tree buds’ change from outer shell to flower. Although they were disappointed that she hadn’t in fact brought the cheeping chicks with her, they were engaged with the idea and correlated easily the idea of the blossom, like a chicken egg, having a shell. The shells were downy soft, to boot, and everyone had a chance to touch them. As she was leaving the school she passed by the older kids on the playground who saw her leaving with a rolling crate of books. They all said, “Hey, I recognize you from the Monroe Library!” Paige and the kids caught up a bit and they thought it was very cool to have a rolling librarian walk to their school.

PlayWorks Training
A full-day intensive training at the Danforth Community Center brought together people from across the city and from various different areas of work. We bonded over secret handshakes, high fives, and favorite superheroes, and learned strategies and games to bring back to our neighborhoods and everyday aspects of life. The trainer from PlayWorks was phenomenal and helped us learn how to create programs that foster connections between people through healthy structured play.

Anecdotes/Other
- Standing Up for Play in the Pre-K to 3rd Grade Classroom: This networking and roundtable discussion event was held at The Strong Museum of Play on April 2, 2019. Margaret Paige had the opportunity to sit and discuss at two tables: Imaginative Play and Music & Movement. One new idea that she took from the event was to create a music album list specifically for educators, and she plans to start on that sometime in the next couple of months. The Monroe Branch has an extensive children’s music collection that she can envision as a great resource for teachers once they know about it. The idea behind the music is to meet children’s need to move and intuitive sense of rhythm that, when “allowed” in the classroom, honors the child and helps them focus. Music can also be used during transition periods, which continues to be a period of time in which students as well as teachers struggle to keep it all together. It was a great chance to talk with the people who work with our children for most of the day, every weekday, and to hear about movements that are going on in the schools, to curate or create resources for them, and to communicate the resources that we can share.

Overheard at the Imaginative Play table was the idea that “social/emotional literacy is taking the place of STEM.” As a children’s librarian and early literacy educator Paige feels that imaginative play carries the weight of the child’s future success in school, work, and life. She also feels that for children who did not have the chance to build their skills through imaginative play at a younger age, there will still be that need in the older elementary grades and in adolescence. Unlike the subjects of STEM which can be rote and methodical, the skills of self-regulation, interpersonal communication, engagement, and focus in a task can only be learned and practiced through play.

- A customer came in who needed help, but he had a hard time communicating clearly what he needed. I found out he had lost his SNAP card and his house keys. He said he had been sleeping outside for two weeks. I was able to put him in contact with DHS to get a replacement SNAP card. I tried to track down his caseworker, but he didn’t know her number or her last name, and was cloudy on her first name. I called Library Resource Outreach Center (LROC) for assistance, and it turned out he is one of their customers, so he was able to get the help he needed. We continue to work with LROC to help patrons find housing or just sit down and talk with someone about their needs.
**Sully Branch, Maria-Heeks-Heinlein reporting**

**Programs**

- Children’s Librarian Jen Nesbitt reports that the Birthday Book Club (BBC) had a very successful first month of sign ups! We also had our first two members with April birthdays stop in to pick out their first books. One child picked a spooky book, and our one-year-old baby picked out a fun board book. Response to the BBC by both kids and parents has been very positive. So positive that a kid (or two) has even fibbed about their birthday being “today” in the hopes of picking out a book right away!
- Another highlight this month was during spring break when our literacy aide took a group of kids outside to fly kites. The weather was just right and the kids loved getting outside and watching the colorful kites up in the sky.
- April was also Potato Head month! Nesbitt borrowed two big bins full of Mr. Potato Heads from the Toy Library this month for the kids to play with. This was a big hit! Kids loved dressing them up and making up stories about their Potato Heads. The baby potato heads were especially popular along with the assortment of shoes and fancy eyeballs! We brought the potato heads out on a few separate occasions and kids of all ages enjoyed playing with them. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations).
- Heinlein started an adult book club at Sully. While checking items out to patrons, Carmen Gonzalez informed the patrons about our first meeting, and encouraged them to check out a copy of the book we were discussing. Thanks to Gonzalez’s constant efforts in advertising the program, our first meeting was a great success. One attendee shared our FB event, and had this to say, “So excited, inspired and grateful that I was able to attend this! Great discussion and diverse group who were passionate and not afraid to share their thoughts, ideas, and love of literature!”

**Anecdotes/Other**

- One day a parent came in with her teenage daughter to get something notarized. The teenager is going to be starting college in the fall, and they are getting all the necessary paperwork ready. After I notarized the document, the young lady asked if I had been working at the library long. “Yes, I have been here almost 10 years” I replied. “I thought it was you”, said the young lady, “I used to go to School #33, and I would come down here after school. I have not been here in six years, but I remember coming down here to see you.”
- A regular patron asked me for help in faxing a page. He said that he just needs to send the page in to his new employer so he could start work the next day. “All these months I have been coming in here applying for jobs, I finally got one, and I start tomorrow. I am going to be a manager of a shop.”
- Also, our Harry Potter program continued this month with some intense competition among Hogwarts houses. Slytherin is still staying highly motivated but Ravenclaw has shown some increased point earning with our new librarian (and proud Ravenclaw) Jacob Bigelow joining the competition. He has supported his house by earning it over 200 points to snap the victory from the fangs of Slytherin House. The program finishes up in May and we are all excited to find out who will win the final month of challenges! It has been fun watching the kids learn more about the Harry Potter universe over the past few months, and many of them don’t even have to ask how to spell their house names anymore!
- Bigelow is our new addition to the Sully family coming in near the end of the month. All staff and patrons have been welcoming to him and have made him feel at home. As he has an interest in not only electronic gaming but tabletop gaming, he has plans to start a regular board game night at the library using traditional and more modern games. He also has found significant interest in starting a Dungeons & Dragons group. He hopes to continue the gaming programs and intends on finding funding for a new Nintendo Switch and PS4. He has taken some initiative on the desire for Sully to embrace Virtual Reality gaming and get a VR set for the Sully patrons to play with.
Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- For earth day we worked on making a collage of the world by using recycled magazines; green for the land, and blue for the water. Some also mixed media and colored the earth as well. We also did a scavenger hunt that involved finding items in and outside the library.
- During spring break we worked on many different art projects but one of the favorites was making dream catchers out of Popsicle sticks. The children enjoyed putting them together, wrapping the string, attaching beads and feathers and gluing gems and other decorative pieces to them. We added string to the top so they could hang them at home.
- The children get really creative when Alex Haehn set the paints out. Everyone painted something different, using the brushes, their fingers and other found objects. They love to mix the colors.
- The Conversation on Cultural Humility with the Gandhi Institute Program provided insight into issues which may be prevalent in Rochester, as well as helping others to identify what they may be able to do in order to be more culturally aware themselves. A group of students from St John Fisher attended. The professor of the class expressed her enjoyment of the event and shared that this was something that she would like to hold at St. John Fisher in order for every student to obtain the same information.

Anecdotes/Other

- For the week of spring break we had lots of different activities for the children. My favorite thing was that we had a group of girls that would get together and play school. They used the white board and asked for books on math and reading. They took turns being the teacher and practicing writing and spelling. They pretended that they were little kids. It was cute because when they are in school they want nothing to do with it, but on break from school, they play school.
- Claire comes in with her Grandfather every Tuesday for about an hour in the afternoon. Her favorite colors are purple and pink. I had a patron give me a fleece coat in those colors. The next time I saw Claire. I asked her if she would like the coat. When she saw it her eyes lit up the size of saucers and she shook her head yes. She was so excited. I got a huge thank you. She came back the following week and handed me a pretty thank you note that she colored herself. I told her that I would put it on my refrigerator at home.
- Staff enjoyed the Branch Retreat. They liked getting together with other branches and hearing ideas that other branches had. They especially liked the ice cream. Thank you, Patty!
- A longtime patron asked me to read her book of poetry. She wanted an honest critique of her work and felt that the library would be a good place to get that. I was happy to read her work and encouraged her to write more.
- I helped a patron lodge a complaint against an insurance company with the Better Business Bureau. She wanted to get the wording just right. She appreciated having the library to help her.
Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs
- Wild Wings did a wonderful educational program called Revealing Raptors over school break. Over 65 people of all ages were in attendance. We met a GyrFalcon, a Screech Owl, a Swainson’s Hawk, and a Barred Owl and learned many interesting facts about each species.
- On Monday, April 22, we featured “Living and Working in Russia.” A record crowd of 32 people attended this presentation. Rochester natives Jynks Burton and Steve Brown described their 17 years of living and working in Russia. The attendees were fascinated by their experiences and asked a lot of questions about what life is like in Russia. They did a similar talk at the University of Rochester to a much smaller group.

Anecdotes/Other
- We got a report that listed all the fiction belonging to the Winton Branch Library that was long overdue (three months or longer). We deleted all 288 titles and have asked for a report of all the non-fiction titles. We’ve been working hard on cleaning up the CARL database! Our new volunteer, Inez, has been helping Finnerty with non-fiction items in the Adult collection. As a result of their work, 178 items which haven’t circulated in the past five years have been deleted.
- Like all the branches, we got new copy/fax machines this month. Patrons seem to be overjoyed that the price of faxes has been reduced to a quarter. Here, Slocombe and Wolf work on trying to figure out how to get the money out of the machine for deposit. Next time, it will be much easier, and will likely require only one person!
- Emily McFarlane is a library school student at Syracuse University. She is taking an online course entitled Library Planning, Marketing, and Assessment and working closely with me. We are meeting twice a month and having wide ranging discussions. When the course is over, she will share her findings and make some recommendations to Winton Staff.
- Cathy Cebul approached Wolf, Manager and Children’s Librarian, to inquire about donating a book each year in honor of her goddaughter, Cora. She has committed to donating a book to our branch with each birthday. She also committed to giving us a dollar for each year; this year we received one dollar. We hope Cora lives a long and happy life.
Selected Meetings & Outputs, April 15 – May 17,
Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting

Standing Meetings
City Senior Management Team (weekly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)
Brie Harrison; Sally Snow; Ana Suro, Tolley Reeves, Tonia Burton, Christine Ridarsky – one-to-one meetings (monthly)
FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
Monroe County Assistant County Executive, Michael Molinari (monthly)
Central Library All-Staff Meeting (monthly)
MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)
New York State Library – Division of Library Development conference call (monthly)
Public Library System Directors’ Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)
Lyla Grills, Penfield Public Library mentoring meeting (monthly)
City Dept. of Environmental Services Commissioner, Norm Jones (bimonthly)

Other
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
Vivian Palladoro, Growing Downtown Arts
RPL Branch Retreat
State of the City Address, School 17
City/County Budget Meeting – Robert Franklin, Kevin Klemans, Christopher Wagner, Suzanne Warren, Brie Harrison
Technology Center Planning Team
MCLS Associate Director Interview Team
Workforce Planning Team
Dr. Karen Fahy & Tonia Burton
Literacy Volunteers Annual Luncheon
City Emergency Management Planning Team
CFA Awards for REDCC – City Planning meeting
Reynolds Board Meeting
Assistant County Executives Mike Molinari and Bill Napier, County Finance Director Robert Franklin, Mary Joyce D’Aurizio,
Christopher Corcoran, Brie Harrison
Play Walk Update – Jenn Biedeman
Roc the Future State of Our Children Planning Team meeting
Associate Director Interviews: Greg Benoit, James Belair, Ronald Kirsop, Michael Sauers, Michael Boedicker, Suzanne Macaulay

Email Activity
April 2019

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