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

**Action Items**

**Central Library Closure on Saturday, May 11, 2019** (Uttaro)
The 2019 Rochester Criterium Race is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2019. The City of Rochester will close streets around the Central Library making it very difficult for staff and patrons to access the library. We are requesting the Board close the Central Library for the full day on May 11.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of closure of RPL Central Library on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

**Establish RPL Investment Committee** (Harrison)
The current Finance committee is responsible for annual budget review, monthly expense (claims) reviews, the annual audit process, and review of RPL investments and investment policy. While the RPL adheres to the policy, gift and investment recommendations as a result of the New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (NYPMIFA), current committee fiduciary responsibilities of investment monitoring are more limited than best practice recommends. With the review of investment process as part of the investment and custodial services Request for Proposals, RPL administration and the Finance Committee recommend the establishment of a separate Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees.

The proposal would amend Article III 1a, Committees, of the RPL Bylaws which will be reviewed in early 2019 and will include amended language.

The Investment Committee would continue to receive investment statements and approve the annual withdrawal, but more frequent meetings will be determined by the Committee to periodically review investment policy, objectives, and manager performance.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the addition of a standing Investment Committee.

**Library RPL-MCLS Staff Association Vending Agreement** (Harrison)
Since the advent of vending machines at the Central Library, the Staff Association has monitored the terms and conditions of the contract with the vending company and has managed location, selection, pricing and customer complaint issues. In return, the Staff Association has received the vending commissions up to $2,500 per year to support Staff Association operations. Funds above that amount will be used to support Library programs that are mutually agreed upon by the Library Director and the Staff Association Board. Each year, the Staff Association has provided support for retirement coffee hours, the annual retiree luncheon and various Library programs and events. This agreement will run from December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of an Agreement Amendment with the RPL-MCLS Staff Association to continue management of vending services at the Central Library as described above for the period December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019.
Acceptance of Harold Hacker Grant (Snow)
The Outreach Department has been awarded a $2500 Harold Hacker Grant for the project “Picture This: Graphic Novels and Literacy in the Monroe County Correctional Facility.” This project will expand Outreach/Extension services at Monroe County Correctional Facility to include a graphic novel program for inmates geared to inspire, educate and promote literacy and inspire a sense of community. This pilot program will include RPL staff-led discussions of Greg Neri’s Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty and Grand Theft Horse, as well as a visit from the author who will be in town for Greater Rochester Teen Read Week in 2019.

Board Action Requested: Acceptance of the Harold Hacker Grant award in the amount of $2500.

Discussion Items

- **Changes to NYS Minimum Standards for Libraries (Snow)** – The Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department Division of Library Development have approved new and revised standards for public libraries. Assistant Director Snow will take us through a presentation that explains the changes and what they mean for RPL and Trustees.

- **Branch Facilities Final Report (Reeves)** – At the October Board meeting, it was agreed that the November meeting would be extended by 30 minutes so Dr. Reeves can present the final Branch Facilities Plan and discuss next steps.

Report Items

*Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting*

Recommended Reading/Viewing


Roc the Future Early Grade Literacy – Early in the summer, I was asked to co-chair a new Outcome Team for Roc the Future that will tackle Early Grade Literacy for children in the RCSD in grades K-3. The team is sponsored by Mayor Warren, and I am co-chairing with Karen Fahy, Director of Early Grade Literacy for RCSD. The team will
work towards community changes that will help students achieve more success in grades K-3. The work will encompass several forms of literacy – reading, speaking, listening, and writing – and will include developing methods and opportunities for community partners and families to assist children in acquiring literacy skills in and out of school. This work fits with the concept of developing a “culture of reading” in Rochester to reverse the decline and lack of literacy skills within our population. Children’s Consultant Tonia Burton will participate on the team, as well as representatives from RCSD, Horizons, Greater Rochester After School Network, Greater Rochester Summer Learning Network, United Way, Nazareth College, and several other organizations.

Weinstein Gathering – FFRPL organized a lovely event on Sunday October 28 at the home of Dr. Sid and Linda Weinstein. I joined Christine Ridarsky, Ned Davis, Rebecca Fuss, and Susan Lusignan to introduce friends and neighbors of the Weinsteins to the work of the Rochester Public Library. Christine gave a lecture on Margaret Woodbury Strong and provided copies of the newest issue of Rochester History to the guests. This issue focuses on Woodbury Strong, which the guests found fascinating. The Weinsteins live on property that was originally part of Woodbury Strong’s estate, and several of the guests actually knew her, which provided some good and lively conversation.

NYLA Panels – The New York Library Association held its annual conference in Rochester from November 7-11, and many RPL and MCLS staff and trustees attended. Several staff presented programs. Jennifer Byrnes did a fantastic job of organizing the Author! Author! Event which was held in Hacker Hall on the evening of November 8. I participated on two panel discussions: Creating Brilliant Partnerships for Early Learning and Nazis in the Library. Both sessions were full and resulted in lively questions and answers. For the Partnerships panel, I shared the floor with the Director of the Onondaga Library in Syracuse and a Children’s Consultant from Oneida Library. We spoke about how our libraries participated in and supported the Ready to Read at New York Libraries project and how we developed partnerships out of that work. For Nazis in the Library, I spoke with Queens Director Nick Buron about neutrality and access to space and services. Sara Dallas, Director of the Southern Adirondack System, facilitated the session and directed the conversation. Two key takeaways: “Libraries are neutral but librarians are not” and “We’re not parents but we are neighbors.” We could have continued to answer questions and discuss various scenarios for much longer than the time we had allotted. I am grateful for having the opportunities to speak to my colleagues in this way during the conference.

RPL Strategic Plan Progress

Education & Engagement

Tim Ryan, YA Librarian at Sully, helped several teens during the month of October with their homework. The subjects were extremely diverse. Topics discussed included: French Revolution and Napoleon Bonaparte, Bacon’s Rebellion, Native Americans, Geometry, Algebra, Nazi Death Camps and Marches and Constitutional Law. Ryan was helping two 10th graders with their homework on the French Revolution and Napoleon Bonaparte. Ryan then decided to use his scheduled Little Known History program to discuss this important period in history as well as the significance of Napoleon Bonaparte. Ryan brought in an artifact from Napoleon Bonaparte that he has in his personal collection, which was a real hair from the head of Napoleon that was purchased at a historical Sotheby’s auction many years back. The teens enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the program as it relates to the artifact, and they were able to get a more comprehensive understanding of Napoleon and the French Revolution whose causes and outcomes are not only complex, but very significant as it relates to equality and human rights.
Sustainability & Resources

The MCLS Advocacy Team met to discuss the strategy for the upcoming legislative season. With the flip in the NYS Senate from Republican to Democrat, we expect a significant change in bullet aid resources which will affect MCLS libraries adversely. There are a couple new legislators we’ll need to work with on education and libraries. The system will provide a bus to Albany for Library Advocacy Day on February 27, and some libraries have already indicated interest in sending their Teen Advisory Boards. Lyla Grills (Penfield) will work on developing some guidelines for engaging teens in advocacy efforts.

The Rochester Regional Library Council held its annual “Legislative Thank You Breakfast” at the Henrietta Public Library on October 26. Eighty-five member library directors, trustees, friends and our state government representatives from the Monroe County and Pioneer Library Systems turned out to celebrate another fruitful advocacy season over coffee and bagels. Thanks to the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library for sponsoring the event.

Stewardship & Curation

Children’s Services Consultant Tonia Burton created a training plan for the Rochester Public Library Children’s Librarians that included eight weeks of training. Dr. Reeves supported the efforts in securing staffing needs and training schedules. Throughout October, Burton spent 53 hours organizing, creating, and implementing training. The trainings included Pyramid Model, Inclusive Services, Raising a Reader, sections of the Ready to Read at New York Libraries initiative, and Maker Ideas for Staff Day. The Pyramid Model training was made possible through a grant to the Friends and Foundation of RPL. This grant covers the cost of creating a Pyramid Model for public libraries and initial trials for RPL staff. The goal is create a model for libraries that can be shared system wide.

In March of 2018, Burton began working with Dr. Lynn Lubecki (Children’s Institute and Master Trainer for Pyramid Model) to modify the Pyramid Model sessions originally developed for classrooms to fit a public library setting. The first phase of training was given over three days October 2 – 4. The content was intense. There were fourteen librarians in attendance. Here is some feedback:

I learned new strategies to teach anger management skills to assist children in learning how to control anger and handle disappointment. 14 of 14 Agreed strongly.

I learned strategies and activities to use in my workplace. 10 Agreed strongly, 4 Agreed somewhat.

This training helped staff understand the complex relationships children have with their world and better understand the effects of trauma. The training provided techniques on how we can design our spaces and
services to better meet the needs of children and their families. We had great discussions about the severe issues facing families we serve and steps we can take to support each other as we process for ourselves. It was evident that staff have been dealing with a lot of stress as a result of helping patrons and are looking for support. The next phase of the training is coaching and mentoring.

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

On October 5 RPL staff gathered for staff day. Assistant Director Sally Snow and MCLS Office Assistant Alicia Gunther, developed a 30 minute presentation thanking all the departments for their work throughout the year and identifying each with an appropriate meme. Many of the support departments were very happy to have their work recognized since the year in review traditionally features outward facing departments and their work with the public.

Snow assisted setting up a presentation of two dolls from the City of Nagasaki to the City of Rochester. The Nagasaki Friendship Doll Association and the Mayor of Nagasaki sent a pair of Japanese dolls in appreciation of Mayor Warren’s and the Rochester City Council’s declaration of September 30, 2017 as International Friendship Doll Exchange Day. The day was proclaimed last year in recognition of the 90th anniversary of the original Friendship Doll Exchange that involved the gifting of 53 life-sized dolls from Japan to the United States. One of those dolls, representing the City of Nagasaki has made its home at the RMSC since 1927. On behalf of Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue and the Nagasaki Friendship Doll Association, Dr. Masao Tomonaga, an atomic bomb survivor and former President of the Nagasaki Red Cross Atomic Bomb Hospital, presented the gift to the City of Rochester. Two dolls, “Sakurako” and “Yoko” were presented as a gift that is intended to deepen the friendship between Rochester and Nagasaki, as well as a symbol of continuing efforts to work toward everlasting world peace.
Social Media Statistics

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Arts & Literature Division, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs
- **Sewing Halloween Ornaments** - October and Halloween is always a fun creative time in the Arts Division. This October was no exception. Librarian Nanci Nugent led students through a class full of Halloween colors. Students made a sewn and stuffed pumpkin head decorated with a black hat and Halloween ribbons. All students said they had a great time making this ornament. Many can't afford supplies so they said they are thankful for the library where they can be creative and interact with others with the same interest. All said, “Nanci makes these classes fun and she is patient with all our questions.”
• **Victorian Hair Ornamentation** - Local historian and artist, Susan Doran explained the art of Victorian Hair work to library patrons in an interesting and beautiful program. Hair work in its many forms established itself as a longstanding tradition by the latter half of the 19th century. Doran demonstrated how locks from the dearly departed were mounted into rings and brooches. Ladies filled their autograph books with snippets from their friends. At the time of rising commercialism, sentimental hair work became a way to signal one's sincerity and was a treasured keepsake. Students learned how a family tree from the 1800s illustrates how the hair of family members was literally intertwined with their genealogy. Some students who attended were not aware of this craft and the beautiful wreaths and brooches that can be made. The program attendees are looking forward to the hands-on class Doran will teach in November.

• **Mary Shelley 200th Anniversary of Frankenstein Lecture** - 2018 is the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s novel, *Frankenstein*. Professor Timothy Madigan Ph.D. from St. John Fisher College is an expert on the novel and has given many lectures on the subject. He talked about Shelley’s early life and her famous intellectual parents. Her father was writer and philosopher, William Godwin, and her mother was women’s rights activist, Mary Wollstonecraft. Madigan spoke about how the early death of her mother may have provided her with a background for the novel. Shelley often went by the name Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, in memory of her mother. Madigan answered many questions from audience members; several did not know about Shelley’s interesting yet controversial life.

• **Getting to Know You: Writing Characters** - Local teacher and writer, Anais Salibian, led a Rochester Writes workshop designed for fiction writers eager to learn how to better develop their characters. Writers participated in exercises to help them deepen their understanding of their characters’ histories, values, motivations, and secret sides. Writers left the class with more three-dimensional protagonists and antagonists and felt a deeper personal connection to their characters.

• **Explore Creative Non-Fiction** - This three-part Rochester Writes series, led by Marna Rossi, explored the craft of applying story and poetry to fact-based stories. Marna engaged the class with exercises designed to help the non-fiction writer develop compelling characters, dialogue, images, action scenes, and story lines.

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

**Training**

- Florence Morris and Renee Kendrot attended a webinar with Susan Shiroma from the Foundation Center. Susan Shiroma provided an overview of how to search the databases we subscribe to as well as how to assist customers with questions about grants when they come in. This is the first time that other staff besides Darlene has been oriented on the Foundation Directory Online directly from the Foundation Center.

- Sarah Bishopp Vélez attended the Census Bureau’s 2-in-1 workshops “Finding Census Data: AFF, ACS, & Decennial” and “We’ve got the Numbers – Mapping.” Presented by Dave Cracker, these two workshops provided hands-on learning for how to manipulate tables and map demographic data in American Factfinder. These workshops were especially helpful given how frequently small business questions require this type of research.
• Renee Kendrot attended a provider workshop at ABVI. Several people presented from various organizations to assist people with financial needs in the community: the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS, National Grid (Erie County, Home Energy Assistance Program (EAP) Energy Assistance Program and Project Share Heating Fund) Law NY and information on Social Security and Disability. Kendrot will be sharing the information with everyone at our next staff meeting.

Outreach
• Bishopp Vélez was asked to teach a session of the Urban League’s 60-hour Next Level Business Training Course. The class began with a brief tour of the small business printed resources on the 4th floor, and then continued in the 1st floor computer lab, where Sarah provided a hands-on demo of several of the Business Division’s databases and other online resources.
• Bishopp Vélez was invited by Malik Evans, City Council Member and ESL’s Business & Consumer Prosperity Program Manager, to attend a special event hosted by ESL and Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) of Rochester at the Dryden Theatre. The event included a presentation by Thea Garon from the Center for Financial Services Innovation (CFSI), as well as an open panel discussion with Thea and Chad Rieflin, Lynette Baker, and Robert Jacobs from CCCS of Rochester. Thea, who is a Director on CFSI’s Program Team, spoke about a recent study she led on financial health indicators in America (the report of which will be released November 1st, 2018). The summary of this research is that, while news headlines are painting a rosy picture of the U.S. economy, it is far from perfect and the vast majority of Americans are merely “coping” financially. She went on to describe some of the indicators her study looked at to assess what financial health looks like. The panel discussion allowed for several questions from the audience regarding how we might as a community and a country look towards improving financial health for all.

Small Business Consulting
• Bishopp Vélez assisted several small business clients this month in finding pertinent research for their start-up ideas. These aspiring entrepreneurs were interested in starting businesses such as a bowling/roller skating venue, party supply rental business, personal stylist/image consultant biz, natural nails salon, real estate investing, restaurant, forming an LLC, real estate business and auto repair shop.
• Darlene Richards assisted patrons with research on medical marijuana, internet providers, business expansion, interior designers and diversifying your LLC.

Database Statistics
• CQ Researcher: 3 sessions, 16 page views, 2 documents
• Small Business Resource Center: 6 sessions, 12 full text retrieval/retrieval, 21 searches
• Foundation Directory Online Professional: 36 searches
• Ibisworld, October: 29 hits
• Morningstar Investment Center: 71 searches, 42 record views, 4 sessions
Children’s Services Consultant, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs
- **Adventures in Coding Program** was presented by our children’s librarian Katie Powell. Powell is creating a series of hands on coding programs that she will offer monthly. Her first program was held on Saturday, October 13, and was a hit! Kids of all ages and abilities learned how to code Cubetto and send him around a map.

- During the month of October school visits were in high demand. Between group visits and the Laurie Halse Anderson visit, 876 students visited the Central Library in October. We reached multiple schools in the Rochester City School District and schools from all over the county.

- During one school visit Powell demonstrated an oozing pumpkin which the students and teachers loved.

- **Laurie Halse Anderson** was the Greater Rochester Teen Read Week (GRTRW) Author and to make her visit accessible to schools without funding for such a visit, Central served as a school visit. Burton worked with Xandi DiMatteo, the GRTRW team, and school librarians across several districts to offer the program. Anderson talked about the importance of ensuring her stories are accurate and discussed her process, as a white woman, vetting her books for culturally appropriate content and experiences. She works with academics to ensure her stories are as true as possible to the experiences of the topics she writes about. Students thoroughly enjoyed their visit and one student even hugged her autographed book and was jumping up and down after talking to Anderson. She couldn’t believe she met a famous person.

- **Halloween Spooktacular** – Central Library divisions worked together once again to offer our patrons a fabulous event. We had no idea how many people would attend and our best estimate is that 300+ people enjoyed a Silly, not Spooky magic show from Checkers; Trick Or Treating throughout the buildings, making pumpkins in the Art Division, an I Spy activity, amazing Photo Booth in the imagineYOU lab, and sensory activities created by students from Nazareth. WXXI brought fun activities, a dance party in the Secret Room, and scavenger hunt. The patrons raved about this so we will have to find a way to do it again. It would not have been possible with current staffing without help from our friends at Nazareth, WXXI, and the other Central divisions that helped. Huge thank you to Jeff Bostic, Digital Media Associate, imagineYOU, Melissa Manczuk in Art, and everyone else that handed out goodies in Circulation, Science, and Business. Unfortunately, because it was so busy, we did not have anyone able to stop to take photos. Bostic did give some great photos.

Community Outreach/Meetings
- On October 2, Tonia Burton joined Jeanne Steinbrenner (Pittsford Library Children’s Librarian) and attended a Monroe County Friends of the Library meeting to share the trainings provided to children’s services staff around early literacy and brain development and why it is important for the development of children.
• Burton attended the monthly meeting of the Parent Engagemnet Collaborative Action Network (PECAN) of Roc the Future. The group discussed the need for Family Engagement trainers for organizations, and also revised the vision statement based upon PECAN feedback from the previous month and established levels of family engagement:

Levels of family engagement:
1. Organizations and individuals that engage families in order to provide a service
2. Organizations and individuals that engage families in order to develop capabilities (in leadership/parenting)
3. Organizations that teach other organizations how to engage families
4. Organizations that do research on best practices in engaging families

Burton is considering how the library can best support the training needs of the community and how we begin offering trainings to groups beyond libraries.

• Burton met with a newly formed WXXI Citizen Science Project Group. The group includes Cara Rager (WXXI Education Specialist), Mike Barry (Monroe County Youth Bureau), Carla Stough-Huffman (Greater Rochester After School Alliance), and Betsy Ukeritis (New York State Department of Conservation). WXXI partnered with all members to apply for and won a grant to create a Citizen Science Event which will take place in April at Seneca Park. Currently, we are planning to host family events in April 2019 that include: Family Fishing Day on April 13, 2019 at Mendon Ponds Park, Fishing pole giveaway, and Nature Day on April 27, 2019, at Seneca Park. Outdoor categories to cover: science, nature walks, observations, play, safety, Smokey the Bear, and PBS KIDS Nature Cat. Citizen science training opportunities will be offered to the community in March-April 2019.

• Burton attended the annual Action for a Better Community Signature Luncheon. She was honored with the Elliott Landsman Head Start Community Service Award for her work with the ABC Head Start program and Raising a Reader. The award was accompanied with a proclamation from County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo which recognized the work being done throughout the early childhood community.

• Burton teamed up with Shamika Fusco and Patricia Connor to attend School #5 Family Reading Night. Burton provided hands on technology for families. Families explored coding through Cubelets, tangrams with Osmo, and building with Magna Tiles. It was great to watch the kids jump right in and figure out how the Cubelets works. One young man mastered the cubes and proceeded to show his mom and sisters. He was so proud!

• Mary Eileen Wood collaborated with Children’s and Business Department to offer a Homeschool event to help families plan and prepare for the upcoming 2019, Terra Rochester-Fingerlakes Regional Science & Engineering Fair hosted by the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Families were also given text books designed for homeschooling and found out about resources available in the Business Division. Burton and Wood are hoping to collaborate again for the upcoming 2019 Summer Reading program.

_Circulation/Information Division, Kathy Sochia reporting_

**Statistics**
- 163 new borrowers
- 3 RRLC Access cards
- 82 Notarial Acts
Programs

- Brian DiNitto taught 13 computer classes. 33 people attended. Comments: Brian is awesome; Very pleasant and patient; He’s fantastic, couldn’t ask for more; Excellent help, very patient. Thank you. Couldn’t have been better; Extremely helpful; Looking forward to next classes; Very patient instructor. I truly enjoyed the class. Wish it were a little longer.

Anecdotes

- A patron came in and shook Brian DiNitto’s hand for helping him land a job the day before. He will be driving a delivery truck doing overnight deliveries for mall stores in Syracuse and Watertown. Staff helped patron with his resume and application the week before.
- A patron came in and told Information staff that she found a job as a receptionist at a dental office using the resume we helped her develop last week.
- An elderly French-speaking woman from Haiti came into the library for help in putting the Uber ride app on her smartphone. Info staff helped her load the app and showed her how to use it. She stated that it is hard for her to get around and the bus route is not near her house. She was very grateful for our help.
- Earlier this month Ron Freitag had one of our regular patrons come to the information desk asking for information about heart attacks. After discussing a little bit about his concerns, he mentioned symptoms that were in line with having a stroke. I tried not to alarm him, but I urged him to seek some help as soon as he could. A few days later he returned to the library and mentioned that he did seek medical help and he had indeed had a minor stroke. He wanted to express his gratitude for our help and mentioned his dedication to keeping up with his health. This showed to me, again, how important the library is to our community not only for the materials we have to loan, but also for the social aspects of serving our patrons. Patrons who come in so frequently often become our friends and it is extremely rewarding to be there for them, and others, when they face issues such as this.

Local History and Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

October was a busy and exciting month for the team in the Local History & Genealogy Division. The Office of the City Historian hosted the Association of Public Historians of New York State’s annual conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Henrietta from October 1–3. Historical Services Consultant/City Historian Christine L. Ridarsky chaired the Local Arrangements Committee; Historical Researcher/Deputy City Historian Michelle Finn served on the Program Committee; Historical Researcher Amy Pepe provided logistical support. The conference attracted more than 120 officially appointed county and municipal historians from throughout the state.

In addition to their responsibilities as conference hosts and organizers, Ridarsky and Finn appeared on the program in several capacities. Ridarsky taught a training session for newly appointed historians and facilitated a session on the history and future of Rochester’s Erie Canal Aqueduct/Subway/Broad Street Bridge structure. Finn chaired a panel on the 2017 women’s suffrage exhibition, Because of Women Like Her...Winning the Vote in New York State, focusing on the power of community partnership. She also coordinated and staffed a table for the Monroe County Historians group, selling a handful of copies of the Civil War book Where They Fell along with an assortment of Rochester History issues.

Ridarsky completed her third and final term as a member of the APHNYS Board of Trustees. She will continue to serve as deputy coordinator of Region 11 and chair of the Education Committee.
We were also honored to learn this month that the _Because of Women Like Her_ exhibit is being recognized as an outstanding suffrage centennial project by the New York Cultural Heritage Tourism Network. Finn will accept the award on behalf of the library and its partners in the Rochester Area Suffrage Centennial Alliance (RASCA) at the Network’s Recognition Luncheon on November 8.

**Programs**
- The division hosted four programs in October. These included:
  - PT Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler’s monthly TGIS: Think Genealogy It’s Saturday session. This month’s topic was “Newspapers.”
  - “Spanish Flu in Rochester” by Dan Cody, part of our monthly Rochester’s Rich History series.
  - “How the Frederick Douglass Family Came to Rochester” by Rose O’Keefe, the second installment in our Frederick Douglass Bicentennial series, _Race, Rhetoric and Resistance_. The final two programs in that series are:
    - 1:00 p.m. November 10, “A Time in the Life of Frederick Douglass, Shields Green, and a Woman Called Moses,” a performance by AKWAABA.
    - 1:00 p.m. December 1, “Radical Friends: Amy Post and Frederick Douglass,” a talk by scholar Nancy Hewitt.
  - “Freddy Comes to Rochester,” a talk on children’s book author Walter Brooks, held in conjunction with the Friends of Freddy 2018 Annual Conference, which met in Seneca Falls. Brooks attended the University of Rochester, and the city is mentioned in several of his books.
- Kohler also presented two off-site programs: “Introduction to Genealogy” at the Hamlin Public Library and “Ancestry.com” at the Fairport Public Library.

**Community Outreach/Meetings**
- The High Falls Interpretive Center & Museum welcomed 425 visitors in October. This included two tours led by Pepe, one for 5th graders from Norman Howard School and one for a group from the Arc of Monroe, Penfield. The center will permanently close to the public on November 18, though we will continue by-appointment-only tours through the end of that month.
- Finn presented a talk on “The History of the Rochester Public Library” for students in the Rochester City School District’s Office of Adult & Career Education Services (OACES). This was the second in a series of presentations Finn is scheduled to give at this facility. The students were very engaged with the topic and asked several questions about the types of programs and services RPL offers, and how to locate and access their neighborhood branches and Central Library. At the suggestion of one of the teachers, Finn will bring a member of RPL’s Outreach staff to her next presentation to sign interested students up for library cards.
- Division Supervisor/FT Librarian II, Jay Osborne, gave a presentation on “Why Buick Succeeded in Pre-War Flint, Michigan and Why Cunningham, Jenkins, Selden, and Sullivan Could Not in Rochester” to a meeting of the local chapter of the Buick Club of America.
- Ridarsky attended a meeting hosted by the Ontario County Historical Society about a grant-funded project to identify and gather information about sites connected to woman suffrage history throughout the Rochester and Finger Lakes region. The project is being led by noted women’s history scholar Judith Wellman; Ridarsky will help to coordinate contributions by Monroe County’s municipal historians. Sites identified in the process will be included in a searchable database that will form the basis of a NYS Woman Suffrage Trail.
- Ridarsky was interviewed by Teej Jenkins of WXXI-TV for an upcoming documentary about George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry and the horticultural industry in Rochester.
RPL Board Director’s Report– November 2018 (Continued)

- Ridarsky gave a presentation to Prof. James Spiller’s Introduction to Public History course at SUNY Brockport. She discussed the role of government-appointed historians in New York State and the planning process for the upcoming Stonewall @ 50 exhibition (see below).

**Exhibits**
- The Stonewall @ 50 Exhibit Planning Team met once this month and continued to refine the narrative framework for the exhibit, which is scheduled to open in the Anthony Maschioli Gallery in Hacker Hall on March 1, 2019. Finn and Fess also participated. Ridarsky continued her outreach to people and organizations that may be able to provide assistance in exhibit development. This included meetings with University of Rochester visiting professor Lina Zigelyte, transgender artist and activist Justin Hubbell and MCC’s Chief Diversity Officer, Calvin Gantt.
- The traveling version of the 2017 woman suffrage exhibition continues to tour the community and was on display this month at the Penfield Public Library, Webster-Schroeder High School Library, and in Central Library’s Science & History Division. Altogether, more than 20,000 people were exposed to the exhibits in October.
  - *Remembering Lewis Henry Morgan* remains on display in the Local History Exhibits Hall through the end of January 2019. Two sections of the former Local History exhibit, *A Rochester Retrospective: Celebrating the Past 200 Years* (World War I and Frederick Douglass) remained on view in the Science & History Division. That exhibit will close at the end of November.

**Digital Projects**
- BOCES intern Ethan McBride and PT Clerk Veronica Shaw finished scanning our Ready Reference card file, containing approximately 25,000 cards, and moved on to scanning the Biography Index file. Our Project SEARCH intern, Abrianna Brown, began editing the files in preparation for them to be converted to a searchable database.

**Rochester Voices**
- Finn submitted a grant proposal to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor asking for $7,000 to develop Erie Canal content for RochesterVoices.org. If funded, this money will go towards hiring two educational consultants who will identify primary materials and develop lesson plans and other educational resources for teachers and students to use in studying the Erie Canal as it relates to Rochester and the Genesee Valley. Grant recipients are expected to be notified by mid-January 2019, with the project running into January 2020.

**Volunteer/Intern hours**
- Two new volunteers—Bob Holmes and Anna Tomasson—joined our genealogy docent program this month. Together, they, Pat Southcomb, Stephan Clark, and Bob Coomber contributed 27 hours of service in October and assisted 6 patrons. In addition, we were assisted by three volunteers (Susan Potera – 2.5 hours; Nancy Martin – 1.5 hours; Ira Srole – 27 hours), two college interns (Nicholas Andrusin, SUNY Brockport – 41.5 hours; Karen “Kaye” Knoll, RIT – 13.5 hours), one intern from Monroe BOCES ( Ethan McBride – 22 hours), and one Project SEARCH intern (Abrianna Brown – 44 hours). In all, volunteers and interns contributed 179 hours of service to the division.
**Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting**

**Reference**
- During the month of October, RMC handled 1,475 reference questions and 446 non-reference transactions for a total of 1921.

**Circulation**
- In October, RMC circulated 12,341 items or 54% of the Central Library's total circulation of 22,779 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added).

**Hoopla**
- Hoopla circulations for October totaled 1165; 316 patrons used the service during October with 42 new users registering and 76 patrons using all seven circs (24%); average cost was $2.08/item.

**Anecdote**
- A patron asked Mary Haag for "inspirational movies." Diane Premo and Mary found about 7 or 8 movies with positive and uplifting messages. This lady volunteers in a soup kitchen that serves homeless men and she likes to show movies during the meals. She said they enjoyed the movies and liked to see something hopeful during their hard days.

**Science & History Division, Jennifer Byrnes reporting**

**Meetings**
- The University of Rochester’s Memorial Art Gallery and River Campus Libraries’ Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation (RBSCP) are collaborating to develop a major exhibition, Graphic Art and Global Health: HIV/AIDS Education Posters from the Atwater Collection, the first major traveling exhibition devoted to the UR’s collection of HIV/AIDS-related posters. Jennifer Byrnes and other members of the community served on a focus group to provide feedback on this event.
- Byrnes met with Lomax Campbell from the Mayor’s Office of Community Wealth Building to discuss potential partnerships, including a circulating collection of gardening equipment for an urban gardening initiative.

**Programs**
- Adult Lego Club: This is a new program that will be offered monthly. This month participants made animals.
- The Science and History Division participated in the Children’s Scavenger Hunt and Halloween Party on Saturday, 10/27/18. Children, dressed in adorable costumes and their parents came to us and found the answers to the scavenger hunt and we handed out goodies to the younger children. Approximately 300 children came to the Division.

**Partner Organization Statistics**
- LROC – 105
- Volunteer Legal Services Project – 12
- Medical Student – 39
- STITesting – 3 tested, 1 positive for chlamydia
• Greater Rochester Coordinated Network – 3

Training
• Kate Meddaugh and Lily Anthony attended the Concept to Commercialization Bootcamp. This was an intense, two day conference about taking an idea from concept to market. Discussed were product development and testing, risk management, exporting goods, corporate relations, entrepreneurship, and incubator programs. They made many connections with conference attendees, and enjoyed learning about the business aspects of a successful, great idea. A few up and coming start-ups talked about their experiences.

Outreach
• Rochester Institute of Technology Venture Creations Incubator: Kate Meddaugh held her first office hours as part of RIT’s “Ask the Experts program.” Three people took advantage of the office hours, and a lot of Intellectual Property was discussed!
• Jennifer Byrnes presented at the RRLC Inclusive Librarians Conference on Libraries and the Public’s Health.
• Byrnes, along with staff from LawNY, presented at the Adult Services Meeting to discuss the upcoming open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act.
• Alla Levi and Byrnes participated in Mayor Warren’s Inspiring Our Community Conference at the Convention Center on Saturday, October 13. A Library table was set up and participants picked up many of our flyers. Many people stopped to say how important libraries are to them and to learn about the library programs we offer.

Consulting
• Jennifer Byrnes consulted with the Mohawk Valley Library System in Schenectady on building a consumer health collection. Byrnes was shadowed by Syracuse University graduate student Melissa Cobo for two days.
  o The Carlson Patent and Trademark Center assisted 33 people with Intellectual Property needs this month: 21 in person, 8 by phone, 3 by email, 1 by mail, 4 database sessions.

Anecdotes
• The Patent Center had its first client for the Patent Virtual Assistance Program. The patron spoke to a patent examiner at the USPTO for 45 minutes. She reported that she gained a lot of insight and the examiner gave her “homework” to complete and they will do a follow up meeting.
• A patron asked if there was a good book to read to learn about Frederick Douglass’ life when he lived in Rochester. Steve Nash suggested he read Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester, New York: their home was open to all by Rose O’Keefe. The patron was delighted to learn that the book’s author presented a program he could attend later in the month.

Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs
• The Girls Who Code classes are entering their second month. The classes are taught by University of Rochester students who are also part of the WiC program. The Girls Who Code class continues to be hosted in the imagineYOU lab every Saturday at 11 am.
• Liberty Partnership, a City of Rochester School program, presented several programs with Teen Central. One was about computer technology and the other was a College Bound Kick-off.
• Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *Speak and the Seeds of America* Trilogy, came to Teen Central and spoke with the teens. About 43 people attended. On Tuesday, she gave presentations to middle schools. This was part of Greater Rochester Teen Reads week. DiMatteo was instrumental in making sure all her appearances went smoothly.

**Meetings and Trainings**

• During the month of October, Dennis Williams visited the Frederick Douglas Community Library, Arnett Branch Library, Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Charlotte Branch Library, Lincoln Branch Library and Sully Branch Library. He obtained footage of each branch and spoke with and interviewed some patrons and staff members.
• Williams met with Diane Bardeen of ABC several times this month to plan out use of library space for several of their programs.
• Williams met with Josh Pettinger of Wicked Squid on Oct 4, Oct 23, and Oct 25 to discuss his role in imagineYOU.
• Williams met with Brenda Lacrosse on Oct 18, to discuss future computing needs for the overall teen areas.
• Williams met with Ned Davis to obtain the equipment from the grant they’d been awarded from Best Buy.
• Williams sat down with Rebecca Fuss to show her how Virtual Reality worked. She was amazed.

**imagineYOU**

October 2018 – 294 Visitors.

**Programs**

• The graphic design class is held every Saturday. Jeffery Bostic is consistently getting at least five people every week for classes. Feedback thus far has been very positive.
• The Imagine YOU lab has significantly increased program output. The lab produced 10 songs this month, and four video projects. To give you an idea of the intensity of a video project - Teens typically have some idea of what they want as far as a story line, or concept. imagineYOU works with them to guide them into the process from thought to product. For example, the image below was an interview shot in the studio over 2 days. The process included six takes total: lighting had to be adjusted,
camera angles corrected, audio tested and adjusted for each of the takes, and outtakes from the interview redone. The raw footage was then uploaded onto our computers where editing began. Editing took a week, minimum of 3 hours a day. What began with over 2 hours of footage was cut down. Here is the final take with music: https://youtu.be/3o5Sj75VsLw

- There are several programs that Bostic has instituted that are extremely effective in assisting teens build digital literacy skills. I would like to highlight one of them for you. It is the business card. It starts with an interested teen who wants to showcase talents, or skills. The program begins with photography, lighting, and composition. The teens are asked a series of questions such as “do you want yourself represented on the card?” If not, what are the skills and talents you want to highlight? What contact information do you want to share? Will this contact information be around for a while? If a photo is desired, then the photography and lighting come into play and the teen is asked to design an effective pose, while adjusting the lighting, the positions and even the settings on the camera. After the shooting takes place, review of positions and lighting happens on one of the computers in the lab. The teen picks his favorite, and then they begin to layout and use graphic designs to create their product. Bostic covers everything from shape design, to color and what the different colors not only represent, but how they make people feel. With a template already created the teen starts laying out the background of the card, then, manipulates his/her picture and any text above the background. By the end the teen now has a foundation for understanding the key that light plays in photography, the importance of setting a camera in a certain position and setting, composition, graphic design, and how to use digital editing to manipulate imagery. They walk away with 50 business cards.

Virtual Reality - The imagineYOU lab received two new iMac desktop computers as well as an Alienware PC with an Oculus Rift virtual reality station. The VR station has been very popular in its first week in the lab. Several teens have worked up a sweat playing virtual reality games.

Branch Library Updates

Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

On October 9, Patty Uttaro and I were invited to attend Rochester’s City Planning Collaborative meeting to discuss and share information about the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan. The discussion generated several ideals about co-locations and creating unique partnerships with other City departments. On October 24, I provided the RPL Board members with copies of the final draft from Hester Street to review and make comments for the next meeting in November. Hester Street will provide the final report and executive summary in November 9.

I met with Pauline Mc Cleary from the Minority Reporter newspaper to discuss my role as Assistant Director, and programs and services at Central. Mc Cleary was very interested in our grant resources, Patent Center and Teen Central. We discussed a possible collaboration with our teen population and leadership training for staff.
On October 17, I attended United Way’s 3rd Annual Volunteer and Board Expo as a representative of the Charles Settlement House. Currently, I’m a Board Member and I was asked to assist with recruitment, networking, and sharing information. As I was networking at the event, I was introduced to Dr. Gloria Morgan, Director of Academic Affairs at Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC). We talked about imagineYOU’s current programs and services. She is possibly interested in funding a joint music and audio curriculum between RPL and REOC.

I attended the Historically Black University event in the Kate Gleason Auditorium to network with college recruiters and advisors. My primary focus was to introduce myself, talk about librarianship as a profession, and diversity in the workplace.

In October, I met with Chacku Mathai, CPRP, President and CEO of Rochester’s Mental Health Association to discuss holding a Hip-Hop Healing Forum at Teen Central. Mathai met the Teen Central staff and we discussed mental illness among teens. The forum is a platform where teens can discuss their struggles with depression, suicide, and mental illness, etc. We will continue to meet and discuss further plans for the event.

Outreach Librarian, Shamika Fusco reporting

There is a great collaboration coming forth with Local Author Taleah. We are in the planning stages of creating a program that the Blackbox Theatre will host. It is titled 2nd Sunday’s Storytime Carnival. There will be more information to come. It will hopefully kick off the beginning of the year.

In addition to outreach this month I have been able to give staffing support to Arnett, Lincoln and Central’s Children Center.

Safe to Be Smart, Derrick Coley reporting

- **The Arnett site** - Shetora Banks facilitated a small Halloween celebration with apple cider, donuts and candy. The teens continue to demand the Nintendo LABO be on the floor during after-school. The teens have built all the models in the Arnett kit! Banks has been providing ongoing job search and homework assistance to teens.

- **The Phillis Wheatley site** - Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford and Wheatley staff held the Mix and Mingle Harvest Festival for the children and teens. The youth did arts and crafts for Halloween and got to eat pizza and goodies for the day. She continues to provide crafts for tween Tuesdays for the group. Bostick-Beckford chaperoned the teens to Sky Zone for a STEM activity. The teens learned about motion, force and kinetic energy all while jumping on trampolines.

- **The Maplewood site** - Mark Dixon has been providing STEM programs to the children, tweens and teens at Maplewood. The youth have been constructing the Nintendo LABO kits together and playing augmented reality games. The newest kit is the LABO Robot which is a huge hit for boys and girls. Dixon said the LABO STEM gaming kit has helped a lot of energetic youth have a positive outlet for their energy. Dixon continues to provide online job search assistance. Dixon visited the Seneca Park Zoo with his staff from Maplewood on Staff Day. He said he enjoyed the day!

- **The Lincoln site** - Vera Haygood continues to provide teens with job search and online application assistance. She provides homework help to students that need assistance. Haygood has a consistent group of males
that play ROBLOX online. Haygood has been mentoring a new female teen that requests her grandmother bring her to the Lincoln branch after-school. The student enjoys reading the Y/A collection. Haygood participated in Staff Day at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. She said it was great team building opportunity and there is a kid still inside of her.

- **The Sully site** - George Carter celebrated Halloween with the youth at Sully by having a pumpkin decoration craft day. The youth both small and tall got to decorate pumpkins of all sizes. The youth enjoyed having pizza and treats in a safe environment on Halloween! Carter continues to provide job search assistance to working age teen and young adults. He has been providing chess instruction to teens and some young adults.

- **Teen Central site** - Lydia Williams-Hylton and John Hylton have been busy in October keeping peace in TeenCentral. A fight broke out and Hylton quickly reacted to break up an adult from attacking a teen male. The adult male knew Hylton and quickly calmed down, however, the space was in disarray. Malcom, one of our special needs teens offered to help clean up the area. Malcom was recognized by STBS staff as an outstanding teen for the month of October and given a McDonalds gift card. Williams-Hylton and Hylton have been providing homework help to teens. Hylton facilitated a fighting game tournament for the teens on the Play Station-4 system and provided gift cards for prizes. Williams-Hylton had a taste test contest with name brand foods versus generic brands to see if teens can tell the difference. She also had a “guess how many” contest with candy in a jar for Halloween. Hylton facilitated a Ping Pong tournament with Danny from the Center for Youth outreach staff. The teens and staff played in the event. Hylton attended the Grand Opening of the R.I.T Magic Spell Studio at the campus. He met our contact Catherine Debellis of STRONG Museum of Play. Both Williams-Hylton and Hylton have been assisting teens with poor hygiene with kits to help them eliminate body odor, bad breath and other personal hygiene issues.

**Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting**

**Programs**

- Youth Services Librarian Nancy Cholewa gathered supplies and started a Handmade Gifts series of programs for teens (and other interested parties). Her first session was a huge success with over a dozen participating, with most making more than one bracelet. Joniah Anderson, one of our pages, assisted Cholewa with the program. She was a huge help with starting and finishing the bracelets and showing participants how to make the knots. There were makers as young as 7 years old and three of our participants were adults. Cholewa states that she “was very pleased with the turnout, especially since I am still unknown to many of our
patrons and it is taking some time to build trust. I have had several patrons of all ages inquiring about what else we are going to be making and what is on the schedule for the next week.”

- The Rochester Oratorio Society performed for our patrons on Saturday 10/27. The program was facilitated by Cholewa. The one hour program went beautifully and was covered by Spectrum News. One of our young patrons answered questions for the cameraman and got some air time on the news. The children were astonished and a little confused when they saw Frederick Douglass walking around the library. All in all it was a great afternoon and all in attendance learned more about Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman through the experience. A library resource guide on the Underground Railroad was distributed in conjunction with the program. A special thanks goes to the folks in the Graphics Department for getting additional copies printed up and out to us with lightning speed.

Anecdotes/Other
In mid-October, I had the honor of helping a very kind lady, who along with her son is a longtime patron of the Arnett Branch Library. I helped her create a booklet and PowerPoint photo display for her recently passed father’s funeral. After the funeral, she gave me a lovely card with the following words: Bruce, “Wow what a blessing you were to me and my family during our time of grief. I could never thank you enough.”

Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs
- Charlotte Branch observed Halloween in an unusually full fashion this year. First, October marked the startup of our 2019 local history series. Ordinarily, the series would have started in September, but we had no luck booking any speakers so we started up in October with TV personality and author Mike O’Brien, “the Getaway Guy.” He put together a Halloween program discussing haunted locations he had visited in his travels. Even though Mike’s retired from Spectrum News he maintains an active speaking schedule and still has a loyal following.

- Then, on October 16, I dusted off my “History of Halloween” lecture and presented it for the Perinton Historical Society. There were about 60 in attendance. On October 30, I presented the same program for Charlotte Library patrons. The turnout was much smaller, but it was a cozy and good-spirited group, and I actually enjoyed it more than presenting to the larger group. We had spice cake and cider and discussed Halloweens of decades (and centuries) gone by. Our fledgling “Films for Grownups” series showed two spooky movies in honor of October... the Haunting (1963) and The Craft (1996). Our annual Halloween cupcake decorating activity for ‘tweens and teens were well-attended this year. Counting the parents that came to look over their kids’ shoulders and offer decorating advice.

- Children’s Librarian Kim Whittemore hosted a very popular costume party on October 25. There were a variety of activities, and children were encouraged to attend in costume. About 70 people attended and the energy level was high, to say the least. She writes “The best part of Charlotte’s Spooktacular Costume Party was at the very end of the evening when a mom who was helping clean up took a moment to pull me aside and share the story of her son George. George is a 4 1/2-year-old preschooler with significant social anxiety problems. The following day would be his preschool Halloween party and she told me that she knew he wouldn’t go in the door because he would be so nervous about the extra chaos in his classroom. However,
he had a great time at our party even though there were 73 people in our room, because he feels comfortable, safe and supported at the Charlotte Branch Library. Mom further shared that though they had out-of-town guests at home, she had left them to bring George to our party, saying that it was so important for George to have an opportunity to socialize in a place that is like home to him. She finished by saying ‘Thank you for making this such a welcoming place. Priority #1 Promote Learning and provide fun, creative and innovative educational experience our diverse communities.

Anecdotes
October brought some sad milestones to Charlotte. Two of our most loyal patrons, one a man in his eighties and another in his early nineties, died suddenly this month. In addition, two of our most faithful book club members moved out-of-state to be nearer their children – one to Massachusetts and the other to California. We really feel the loss of these very committed library users. On the bright side, we had two new attendees at October’s book club meeting, so the cycle of life goes on. In a happier vein, a patron left a note on Whittemore’s desk. It read “When I was in during summer, someone recommended the book, Elephant & Piggy. My son loved it so much he just laughed and laughed. We came back and took out more. Now he loves reading and is top of his class. I just couldn’t believe it. Until then he had hated to read.”

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs
• We hosted a program with nurses from Highland Hospital after establishing a partnership with UR/Highland Hospital library and nursing staff. They offered demonstrations on how to correctly perform hands-free CPR for infants and children, then reviewed how to assist a child who is choking. This program was heavily promoted with assistance from the PTA at School #12 and staff at Rochester Childfirst Network (RCN) and Douglass R-Center. Sarah Ngo held a program for children at the same time, so parents and caregivers could attend the program and focus on the information while their children decorated Halloween cookies with Liz Bauld, the Storybook Cook. If UR/Highland considers the program a success, we hope to offer more workshops. Offering these programs help them fulfill teaching/learning requirements for the nursing staff, so they did not charge the library for this program.

• WXXI Science Fridays - Cara Rager from WXXI joined us for two Science Fridays this month. We made water balloon monsters and were able to throw them outside. We also made spider houses. Both were well received and messy and fun for the kids. It is amazing to see kids interact in different ways when using their creativity. They also are helping each other hold things in place or taping or coming up with helpful ideas for improvement. Total Participation: 71

• Ngo reports that her storytimes at RCN are flying. She has one UPK class that walks over to the library for a visit and she goes to RCN to visit a three year old class. The kids are adorable and love to dance around. She has her work cut out for her with this class. Movement is key for them! Total Participation: 80. A former teacher at RCN moved on to be a UPK teacher at The Rise School. She reached out to Ngo to continue storytimes for her class. Ngo went twice this month and the kids loved hearing Halloween themed stories and songs. She arrived
early to help with their Halloween breakfast and to greet parents at drop-off time. Total Participation: 28.

- Raising a Reader - This month was the start of RAR with meetings. Ngo visited ABC Joseph Ave in the beginning of the month to meet with new teachers and train them in the Raising a Reader program. She created bags for the Joseph Ave site and plan to deliver red bags in the beginning of November.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- Ngo was asked to attend an Open House on Thursday, October 4th at School#12. She set up a table with library card registrations, program information; promote our family events for October, and to meet more members of the School 12 community. She signed four kids up for library cards and passed out over thirty flyers. Ngo had many regular users stop at the table to say hi and passed out lots of pencils and stickers. Total Participation: 92

  *Priority #1 Promote Learning and provide fun, creative and innovative educational experience our diverse communities.*

- *Autumn Roots Festival* - For the second annual festival, Ngo had a table set up and Shamika Fusco came out to assist her. They promoted library resources and gave away books. It is great to be in the neighborhood and being a library presence outside of the building. They gave out stickers, pencils, and library brochures. Total participation: 46

Anecdotes/Other

- On Staff Day we attended a presentation at RIT with Margi Ochs, Director of Marketing & Business Development at the RIT Center for Quality and Applied Statistics. She gave us a fantastic overview of Lean Six Sigma and we started working through internal processes that are wasteful (time, money, over processing, etc). We determined that our DVD collection process and set-up are in desperate need of attention, so we’ll be working on pilot programs to assess how best to improve and continue to adapt to patron needs. Data from Gimlet, CARL, and Collection HQ will be integrated with patron feedback to guide our changes. I’ve discussed making fairly large changes with Joan Lee, and she is on board with our ideas. Ochs has also volunteered to work with us to help keep us on track and potentially partner with FFRPL to obtain Lean Six Sigma grants to fund training and other opportunities.

- Jen Lenio generated collection health reports for us to work through for Adult fiction, DVDs, and YA fiction. Collection HQ indicated that our health is great and we have already completed the first step in the clean-up process. I’m excited to get more reports to work through because I’ve identified several areas of our overall collection that need extra attention.

- Partners for Learning is a work-study program through Nazareth College. We work closely with Lisa Hiley, an education professor and coordinator. They began the last week of September and will finish up before Thanksgiving. They are with us to assist with homework help four days a week. We have good participation and interest in having extra hands helping with homework. Homework is the biggest draw to the library recently. Kids need a lot of guidance when it comes to math and English language arts. If there are no students for homework, then the students engage with them through play or talk. Many are blown away by the knowledge and humor of the kids. (I have added a reflection from a Nazareth student as her assignment for her professor on her experience at Science Friday below). Total Participation: 69  *Priority #1c: Expand our visible presence in our communities*
Nazareth College Student Reflection (shared by coordinator Lisa Hiley):
Today I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Frederick Douglass Community Library in Rochester, New York. This particular library looked small in size from the outside, but nothing short of wholesomeness and warmth radiated from inside. Every few times a month, there are educational events offered to children in the community as an after-school activity. This gives children a safe place to do their homework, ask questions, and receive mentorship from the friendly staff members. With an elementary school next door and a recreation center in the back, this library was situated perfectly for all children in the area.

Many of the children at the event were inner city kids and needed a place to be until their parents would be home from work. I did notice language differences in the children, including dialectical differences of many words. There was a very diverse set of children with ages ranging from six to eleven. The activity provided for the children today was to make a protective cover for a water balloon, and make predictions on whether their craft would prevent the balloon from popping. With about thirty kids there, I naturally worked one on one with an eleven year old boy from the Rochester area. He was very self-directed but did ask for my opinion and assistance on how to construct a protective covering for his water balloon. He hypothesized if the balloon would pop or not based on the “suit” made out of recycled materials. Materials included aluminum foil, recycled egg cartons, colorful tape, and paper plates. He attempted to ask for help in preparing double sided tape for his water balloon to stick items on it, and the dialogue went as follows:

Student: “Where are you from?”
Tiana: “Oh, I’m from New York City, where are you from?”
Student: “That’s why! I’m from Rochester.”
Tiana: “Awesome”. (laughs) “That’s why?”
Student: “You’re good at making double sided tape. You’re from New York City, you tape down everything there”.

This child brought so much joy into my life within the two hours of volunteering. He not only was poised but very articulate. He used age-appropriate vocabulary and made references to the supplies at the event, to supplies he has at home to continue this project another day. After the event, I spoke with Ragar the spearhead of this activity, and she mentioned how kids will come here daily after school to do homework, and build connections with the adults at the library. This is a very small library and kids will come to Frederick Douglass, from all distances, to this particular library because of the amount of materials and hands on activities offered. Every week the children look forward to new themes and working with their favorite adults.

Volunteering at these events not only creates the opportunity to consistently interact with kids, but to have a better understanding of the community centers and schools I may possibly work for. After cleaning up and rearranging the tables in the library, it was time to head home. The young boy I was paired with noticed we were leaving, and continuously asked questions about how we knew about this event and this library. It was clear he didn’t want us to depart. It’s easy to wipe your hands clean after a volunteer job and leave, but I evidently gave him something he needed, and that was time and attention. We never know what a child endures once they’re out of our care and he remembered that I gave him positive energy and he enjoyed the attention. As a future speech-language pathologist, I want to not only be effective at my craft but offer children my time to listen, which is a precious gift.

Total Library Users for our kid’s space: 1012
Total Number for Homework Help: 193
Total Number of Rec Participation: 141
Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lydon reporting

Programs

- Our literacy aides held a successful ‘Decorate Your Halloween Bag’ program at the end of the month. Using blank canvas bags they helped kids to decorate bags they could take out with them on Halloween. We also are continuing our ‘Music in Motion’ series here on Saturdays taught by the Eastman Community School. Music in Motion is a ten week program run by staff from the Eastman Community School and sponsored in part by the Joseph Ave Arts and Culture Council.

- October was the last month for the Neighbors as Partners (NAP) meetings. The meetings were held at the Lincoln branch twice a month with regular attendance. For October NAP had a presenter from LawNY. At the computer class, I showed the attendees how to search for genealogical and local history information from the Rochester Public Library website.

Jacob Bigelow, YA Librarian reports that one of the most important things we can do in the course of Young Adult services is to cultivate positive relationships with the teens in our space. The Halloween program was simple on the outside; dressing up for Halloween and offering candy to all the teens that came in that day. But its candy that serves a purpose for connecting. A nice gesture combined with a question of “how was your day” led to discussions about what the teens were doing for Halloween and the costumes they had planned. Perhaps the greatest was the girl who came fully dressed as a unicorn to just say hi to Bigelow and Haygood, and wished them a happy Halloween and then head out again to go trick-or-treating. Overall, Bigelow was able to have positive interactions with about 10 teens who showed up to the library that day. By forming and strengthening his relationships with the teens, he has noticed significant increases in reference questions posed by them, and that positive interactions continue beyond the times when I’m offering free food or candy.

Bigelow has been focusing on expanding LGBTQ representation in the collection for which he has noticed that parents have been using the collection to find materials to help their own children in coming out. I’ve also been expanding on my “Classics Collection” of books used in English Literature classes. These are always popular.
during the school year as Teens either forget their own book at school or remember they need to do a book report. We also again get parents and teens from other libraries to use our collection.

Toy Library
Toy Library staff have been entering every possible new toy into the system clearing space in preparation for a visit to the Pirate Toy Fund in January. Also, we completed four additional Play and Learn backpack sets. We have 4 more to complete and that will be it for that project. We are just waiting for a few books to complete the final sets. We’ve had an unusual number of donations this Fall and the Junior League and Christ Episcopal Church will be doing toy drives for us. In preparation, Corinne Clar created more foam board posters and copied brochures for us. The Junior League has also offered a day of service to help with routine tasks at the Toy Library.

Community Outreach Meetings/ Contacts
Lydon was also invited to speak to parents at the Eugenio Maria de Hostas Charter School about current programs and resources for parents, in particular our English Language Conversation Classes. She was also invited to attend the Clergy on Patrol event held by the Northeast Neighborhood Service Center with the Upper Room Ministry located next to our branch. It was a wonderful opportunity for her to talk with community members and get to know more patrons in the area.

Lyell Branch, Pat Connor reporting

Programs
Lyell had lots to celebrate in October. On October 6, we celebrated Fire Safety with a visit from Engine #5. Lyell families enjoyed seeing a fire truck up close and personal! On October 18, we celebrated National Chocolate Cupcake Day! We had activities and stories for the kids and of course chocolate cupcakes for the patrons! We celebrated Halloween with a Toddler Dance Party Halloween Edition and a Halloween Extravaganza after school on October 31. Kids came in costume to make crafts, play, and eat! They loved the donuts and apple cider. Before they left, they were sure to grab candy from our huge candy bowl on the counter for Lyell patrons. (Priority #1 - Education and Engagement)

Community Outreach/Meetings
Patricia Connor represented the Lyell Library at both School #43 Parent Teacher Conference Night and School #5 Family Literacy Night. The program at School #5 included a reading of the book Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell to three groups of parents and children. The book had been chosen for JumpStart Foundation’s “Read for the Record” which was taking place the next day and is about a community getting together and painting murals to take away the darkness of their neighborhood. Following the reading, the listeners worked on a community mural on a hallway wall. PreK visits at School #17 began in October. Connor was delighted to have some new friends to share stories and activities with and they were all great listeners for this first-time experience. In November, the students will be getting library card applications to take home. Those who return them to their teachers will receive their first library card at the December visit. School #7. (Priority #2 - Sustainability and Resources)

Anecdotes/Other
Stephanie Lane, Library Clerk, spearheaded a small group of Lyell staff members - Roberta Voelkl, Jennifer Cherelin, and Joan Lee - who participated in the City of Rochester’s Walktober fitness program. The small but
mighty group logged almost 1,000,000 steps and took 6th place in the City's team list. They were the highest ranking of the library's teams.

Maplewood Community Library, Johann Buran reporting

Programs

- Maplewood continues to offer weekly LEGOs parties, and pre-school story time which focused on fall themes such as pumpkins and Halloween. One of the children has started to speak to us after being very shy for months. There was a word hunt for the Fall and one for Halloween where they could win stickers. The children were very excited to win a whole sheet of stickers. The children, tweens and teens could make and decorate Halloween masks. Different masks options were provided that that they could use to trace onto whatever color construction paper they wanted their mask to be. Afterwards they could decorate and design their masks with all the different supplies that were provided for them. They made aliens, cats, dogs, superheroes and scary faces. They really seemed to enjoy this activity. Several of the staff members wore their costumes to work to celebrate Halloween.

- Aquinas Institute continues to provide helpful volunteers. A small group from St. John Fisher continues to visit on Mondays and Wednesdays to help the children with their homework. Every week the children ask if the college kids are coming. There are four college students from St. John Fisher work with children ages kindergarten and third grade using Seeds of Success program. We ordered and received more of the plain white drawstring backpacks. The teens were excited to do them again since they did them in the summer. They were given fabric markers and something stiff to put inside the bag so the color wouldn’t bleed through and to make it easier for drawing. Despite the bigger order of these bags, we still ran out. Many chose to personalize theirs with their name and some just decorated with random designs.

- ESOL (English Speakers of Other Language) classes for three weeks of the month had a “book club” on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. This month we read a variety of “Cinderella” books from around the world and then watched a movie based on the story. Our Tuesday focus has been on money. For one class we used play money to go “shopping” for food (using pictures and prices) with a contest to see who could get the closest to spending all of the random amount of money they were given. An extra hour has been added to the citizenship classes for reading and writing for the citizenship test and has revised our flyer to add the timeslot. We are also offering tutoring to help with citizenship and hope to match up volunteers to students.

Outreach Community Meetings

- Stahovic-Barnes started off the month by visiting RISE Community School for their Open House. Along with other community organizations she was there to promote the library, library programs, and library card sign ups. Stahovic-Barnes brought pencils, stickers and book marks which got the attention of the little ones. A
lot of families did have library cards but those that didn’t took an application to fill out and return later. Parents were thrilled to learn that Maplewood did indeed offer homework help for their kids.

- As part of the RRLC (Rochester Regional Library Council) Inclusive Libraries Conference Evanna DiSalvo presented “Partners in English Language learning” with Carolyn Argust from the Lake Avenue Church and Lauren Landsberg ELA (English Speakers of Other Language Associates of Rochester). There was handful of attendees who were very interested and engaged. The Fairport Library and the Henrietta Library are both looking at starting ESOL (English Speakers of Other Language) and citizenship classes. The Henrietta Library has been approached by OACES (Office of Adult and Career Education Services). It was a really good exercise to present with others and DiSalvo hopes to invite them to do it again sometime.

Monroe Branch, MaryClare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Guinea Pig Storytime - Children’s Librarian Margaret Paige reports that after briefly introducing guinea pigs Cavy-Mavy and Monty, she shared two stories with the group. The first was Crunch! by Carolina Rabei. Crunch is a guinea pig who loves his food so much that he doesn’t want to share. He learns that guinea pigs cannot live by carrots alone, and opens his heart and food stores to a new friend, a mouse named Cheddar. The second story was from the Little Whistle series by Cynthia Rylant. In Little Whistle’s Medicine, the title character, which lives in a toy store, is a live guinea pig in a blue pea coat and caretaker of the toys at night. Toy soldier usually reads to the baby dolls at night, but he has a bad headache and does not feel well. Since he cannot read to the baby dolls, they begin to cry inconsolably. Little Whistle puts on his blue pea coat and retrieves a toy medical bag from a shelf, fixes up toy soldier, and saves the night by getting the baby dolls their bedtime story. Attendees enjoyed both stories. We also sang a song that I composed to the tune of “Five Little Ducks,” except it was “Five Little Piggies.” The song incorporated guinea pig diet (timothy hay), guinea pig sounds (“squeak, squeak, whistle”), and guinea pig behavior/habitat (“But one little piggy burrowed down”). This is Cavy-Mavy’s third visit to the library, and she will be back again for certain! At the end of the program each family received a farmers’ market pie pumpkin to take home. Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community

Anecdotes/Other:

- We had a patron who was homeless. With the help of LROC, a few months ago he moved in to his own apartment. Cherrin Arnold, a Clerk at Monroe, had an old television/DVD player that she no longer wanted. She asked this patron if he would like this TV and he said yes. One Sunday a few weeks ago Cherrin delivered this television to his apartment. Besides making this delivery, she encouraged him to stop in and get a library card. Well, a couple of weeks later he stopped in and Cherrin signed him up for a card. He is now checking out movies on a regular basis. Besides using our library, we can also keep in contact with him. Thanks to LROC and a terrific staff, he is in a much better place.
• A highlight this month was the visits from New Beginnings students on October 16 and October 23. Each group received a tour of the library and an opportunity to choose items for checkout. Students received library cards, and we were able to clear up issues with prior fines. All students who got cards were eligible to enter a drawing for a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card (6 available). The drawing will be held soon, after all students have had a chance to enter the contest.

**Sully Branch, Maria-Heeks-Heinlein reporting**

*Programs*

• What a fun month full of spooky events at Sully! Children’s Librarian Jen Nesbitt got into the Halloween spirit with a pumpkin painting craft program that was a big hit with the kids. Each child got a real mini pumpkin to paint however they wanted and to take home with them. This was fun for the kids and also a few parents who came with their little ones. It was so popular that we offered the pumpkin painting program twice!

• Nesbitt and Literacy Aide Li’Asia Campbell also decided to host Trick or Treat: Library Edition on the day before Halloween. Campbell came up with a scavenger hunt list of questions that would lead kids to a different staff member to collect their candy. This was a huge success! Some kids dressed in costumes and all of the kids loved making their way around the library to pick up all different kinds of candy. This also gave the kids a chance to learn names of staff and to meet some staff members they did not already know. We gave out our entire supply of candy, which was a very large quantity! It was a great team effort among the Sully staff. Nesbitt also hired the Storybook Cook to come for a Halloween Munchies cooking class. The kids made three different spooky snacks and we had such a full house for this program that our presenter ran out of supplies!

*Community Outreach*

Nesbitt had the opportunity to visit Friendship Children’s Center this month for a full morning of story time outreach. She presented story times to five different classes at Friendship and made lots of new little reader friends. Ryan made contact with a librarian at Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School and discussed collection building in relation to non-fiction and school curriculum with School Library Media Specialist Matthew Knope.

*Anecdotes/Other*

• James Mitchell assisted a patron in finding a specific book she was looking for. I happened to walk by just as Mitchell pulled the book off the shelf, and gave it to the patron. I witnessed the patron when she sung a little song and said “oh, you don’t know how much this book is going to do for me!” She was very pleased that we had this book on the shelf, and she was able to take it home for a while. The book was a study guide for a nurse exam.
• A new child, who we’ve been told is on the autism spectrum, recently started coming in after school with his siblings. He has made fast friends with the children’s staff. He decided to give us his own special names after announcing we are officially his friends now. Literacy Aide Campbell has been named “Pudding” and Nesbitt is now known as “Cupcake.” Literacy Aide Khajari Marshall-Hosier was originally called “Butthead” but some other kids nicely changed it to “Savage Boy!” We call our new little friend “Superman” which suits him well! He is a special kid who seems to really appreciate our care and attention, especially on days when his school peers have “broken his heart” for one reason or another!

• Ryan has been assisting a patron with research on his master’s thesis. The patron is writing on our manga collection and its connection to increased literacy and has visited the library a few times to access the collection.

**Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting**

**Programs**

• Mrs. Charlie, our Homework Tutor, is amazing. I enjoy hearing what the children have to say to her about school as soon as they arrive. In just these two months I have seen an improvement with the children and understanding how to do their homework. Sometimes they even bring treats for her.

• The Haunted Harvest Hoopla/Mix and Mingle this year was super fun. I think it helped that there was candy involved. We played bingo with candy corn and made very sparkly pumpkins. I think there were more sparkles on the floor and on the children then on the pumpkins. After that we had pizza, popcorn balls, and dirt cups. The children said thank you, with prompts from parents, but they genuinely had huge smiles on their faces.

• Reverend Lori, who is part of the Montgomery Center, and Miss Viola came by to make apple sauce with the children. Once I told the children, that she was coming to make applesauce, everyone wanted to hurry up and finish their homework. They had a great time with the children. The children pretended that they were apples rolling down the hill in the auditorium and they sang a song about how you make applesauce. At the end of it, all of the children wanted to make applesauce for me to eat and I ended up having three cups full.

**Anecdotes/Other**

• Haehn was able to help a new homeschooling mom that had just moved to the area from Florida. In Florida the schools have a curriculum that they have put together to give the parents, but when she came up here she was told that she had to find what she needed herself. She asked Haehn about books to use for ninth and tenth grade. Haehn told her that most of Wheatley’s collection was geared towards elementary students. Haehn showed her the YA collection, but she did not have much time to look. What was most helpful to her was the information Haehn shared with her about the Rochester Area Homeschooling
Association. Haehn told her that she could find other parents there that she could use for support. She was very grateful and told me that she would be seeing me soon.

- On 10/30 the weather was good enough to change the story in the story walk. The whole process takes 1.5-2 hours so it has to be a good weather day to do it. As I started to work my way through the 20 podiums, I got a chance to talk with the patrons who pass by. There is always a smile and a hello. The people in this community are so friendly. “What are you doing, Miss Lori? Putting a new story in the story walk, I replied. “Do you need any help, Miss Lori?” Thank you but I think you should go get your homework help while Miss Charly is still here. From toddlers to teens to adults, everyone has a friendly word to say about how they love the library. As I’m nearing the finish, I noticed a daughter and her mother are reading the story. I show them the last pages that I’m about to put in. We don’t want them to leave without knowing the end of the story. We talk about how this is the last good day weather wise for a while. They let me know how much they enjoy the story walk and the colorful sidewalks. It’s great to get to connect with so many people, and that’s exactly what the story walk is meant to do.

**Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting**

**Programs**

- **Chocolate Always Makes Things Better** was a rousing success. We had fun with trivia, all phones came out of pockets and answers were googled. We identified chocolate bar brands based taste testing miniature size candy bars without its label. Everyone had fun and went home with chocolate. *(Priority #1 Promote Learning and provide fun, creative and innovative educational experience our diverse communities)*.

- **Calligraphy Workshop** - We had great success with our “Learning Brush Calligraphy” program on Oct. 22. We had sixteen people attend this 60 minute program. The instructor was engaging, informative and the patrons loved her. Each attendee received a small pad and two markers to practice their lettering skills. Several people who attended were new to the Winton branch. I heard many positive comments and feedback after the program.

**Anecdotes/Other**

Staff day was amazing! Although many of our members were laid low by illness, eight of us got to spend the afternoon at the Strong Museum of Play. We had a blast! Although we see each other almost every single day, it was particularly wonderful to be able to spend time together outside of work. The staff got to know one another on a totally different basis than we had before. It was too bad the entire staff could not be there.
As a direct result of the Early Learning Spaces training Wolf attended on October 25, she has done some major rearrangement of the Children’s Room to create a warm and welcoming play area. We moved the entire DVD shelving unit to the other side of the Children’s Room, got rid the huge shelving unit that toys were stacked on and put out the small and neat unit that FFRPL bought for us. We are using some of Winton’s Bullet Aid to purchase a new toy kitchen to replace the plastic kitchen that is on its last legs.

We had three computers for children that we crowded on a small table, so kids trying to use them would have no space whatsoever for movement. I took two of the five tables that lined the north wall and pushed them together so we could spread out the computers. A side benefit of this move is that it opened the north wall, so the three remaining tables could be spread out. The whole area looks roomier and more inviting. Sadly, there are no “Before” photos, but here are some “After” pictures.

**Selected Meetings & Outputs, October 13 – November 10 (Uttaro)**

**Standing Meetings**
- Brie Harrison; Sally Snow; Ana Suro – one-to-one meetings (monthly)
- Tolley Reeves - one-to-one meetings (bi-weekly)
- FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
- City Chief of Staff, Alex Yudelson (monthly)
- City Senior Management Team (monthly)
- Monroe County Assistant County Executive, Michael Molinari (monthly)
- Central Library All-Staff Meeting (monthly)
- MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)
- MCLS Board meeting (monthly)
- MCLS Directors Council (monthly)
- New York State Library – Division of Library Development conference call (monthly)
- Public Library System Directors’ Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)
- RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)
- RPL Board meeting (monthly)

**Other Meetings**
- City Councilmember Matt Gruber regarding grant opportunity with Foodlink
- Emily Lynch, I (Heart) Rochester Instagram Takeover planning
- Early Grade Reading Outcome Team Meeting (4)
- Dr. Daniel Lyman Torres, Attorney Patrick Beath regarding RCSD Datasharing
- Growing Downtown Cultural Committee (presentation on Rundel Terrace Project)
- Nagasaki Friendship Doll Ceremony
- Baker Tilly Interview for City Strategic Planning
- Christine Ridarsky, City Historian
- Jasmine Santiago (consultation on library school)
- Mark Buckley (consultation & interview for Smart City presentation in Ottawa)
- Kate May, Chris Wagner, Sarah Boyce, Suzanne Warren regarding RPL’s Roc Stat presentation
- Literacy Volunteer Brain Games
- Donor Event at Linda & Sid Weinstein’s Home
MCLS/RPL Advocacy Team
Dr. Reeves & Tonia Burton regarding RPL Children’s Services
MCLS Group Discussion on Statistics and Program Evaluation
Roc the Future State of Our Children Preparation Meetings (3)
Dedication of Frederick Douglass Home Marker
Art of the Book Opening
Hank Rubin (regarding non-profit leadership)
NYLA Ready to Read Panel on Brilliant Partnerships (panelist)
NYLA Author! Author! Event
Donna Benjamin, RPL Board President regarding committee assignments
NYLA Panel on Intellectual Freedom (Nazis in the Library) panelist
NYLA Inaugural Banquet
Still I Rise Radio Show guest on WAYO FM

Email Activity
October 2018

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