TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: October 24, 2018  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – October

**Action Items**

**2019 RPL Board Meeting Schedule (Uttaro)**
The proposed RPL Board of Trustee meeting dates for 2019 are:
- January 30
- February 20 (joint meeting with MCLS Board for budget purposes; this year on the RPL schedule, so Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.)
- March 27
- April 24
- May 29
- June 26
- August 28
- September 25
- October 30
- November 27 (Day before Thanksgiving. Move to November 20?)

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of 2019 RPL Board of Trustee meetings.

**2019 Holiday Schedule (Uttaro)**
The following proposed schedule of 2019 holidays for RPL staff closely follows the approved schedule for City employees. These are holidays negotiated with AFSCME and CSEA bargaining units.

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<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 1, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
<td>Monday, January 21, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Floater to be taken between February 1, and April 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>Monday, May 27, 2019</td>
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<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Thursday, July 4, 2019</td>
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<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Monday, September 2, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus Day</td>
<td>Monday, October 14, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Day</td>
<td>Friday, October 18, 2019</td>
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(Church buildings will be closed to the public – staff reports for Annual Staff Day)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans’ Day (Observed)</td>
<td>Monday, November 11, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Thursday, November 28, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 24, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Wednesday, December 25, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director’s Discretionary Day to be taken during calendar year 2019</td>
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BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the 2019 Holiday Schedule for RPL employees.
City Capital Improvement Request (Harrison)
Below is a listing of City Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY20 to FY24 funding cycle. Outside of the standard requests for equipment, computer replacement, and Central Library facility maintenance, we are confirming cost estimates for specific capital projects in conjunction with the City’s Division of Architectural Services for Central and branch library building-related needs. An allocation for the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan actions is also under development. We will present both of these at the meeting for Board review and acceptance. Annual library facility, furnishing and IT equipment requests are as follows:

1. **Branch Library Computer Replacements**: The Library’s five-year cycle for server, large equipment, network/telephony and computer replacements is as follows:

<table>
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<th>2019-20</th>
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2. **Branch Facilities Annual Allocation**: This is the fourth year we are requesting a capital allocation for general maintenance of our ten branch facilities; our requested allocation for FY20 is $50,000 and we incorporate an inflationary increase of $2,000 for proceeding years.

3. **Branch Furniture and Equipment**: We request an annual allocation of $20,000 to replace chairs, tables, shelving and equipment as needed in each branch, with an increase to $22,000 annually in FY22 through FY24.

4. **Central Facilities Annual Allocation**: Each year the City provides an allocation for the general upkeep of the Central Library. Our requested allocation for FY20 is $88,000 and we incorporate an inflationary increase of $2,000 for proceeding years.

Room Reservations Policy (Uttaro)
As discussed at the September meeting, the RPL room reservation process is being streamlined. Separate policies for Branches and Central have been blended into a single policy which addresses assessment of fees, the application process, and liability. Additional procedural steps are in development and will be tied to an implementation of an online reservation system. Central Library room reservations will continue to be managed by the Communications Department, while Branch Managers will handle inquiries and applications for their respective spaces. The revised policy is included with your packet.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the revised Room Reservations Policy for RPL

Discussion Items

Branch Facilities & Operations Plan, Final Report (Reeves)
The final report from Hester Street is expected Friday October 19. An electronic copy will be shared prior to the meeting, and printed copies will be made available at the Board meeting on October 24. I do not recommend trying to print the report on your own as it is in an odd size and format. Due to the length of the report and the short time before the Board meeting, we will begin discussion and answer initial questions on 10/24, then ask Trustees to carefully read the report and be prepared to vote on acceptance of it in November.

Because the report contains a significant amount of information and recommendations, I would like to reconvene the Board’s Branch Planning Committee to work with Dr. Reeves over the next few months to unpack the report, discuss it thoroughly with staff, stakeholders, and community members, and develop an
implementation plan. Please let President Benjamin know if you are interested in joining the Branch Planning Committee.

**Report Items**

*Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting*

**Recommended Reading/Viewing**


**Upcoming Events**

- Literacy Volunteers Brain Games, October 25, 5:00-8:00 pm – Come support the RPL/MCLS/FFRPL Team! See Patty for details.
- Legislative “Thank You” Breakfast, October 26, 9:00-10:30 am at Henrietta Public Library.
- State of Our Children Breakfast & Workshops, November 15, 7:45-11:00 am. Register here: [https://thechildrensagenda.salsalabs.org/soocregistration/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b9ba5750-1147-4b29-b3c5-0b65c943bc76](https://thechildrensagenda.salsalabs.org/soocregistration/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b9ba5750-1147-4b29-b3c5-0b65c943bc76)

**RPL Strategic Plan Progress**

**Education & Engagement**

- From Teen Central:
  - This is a snippet of one of our singers: [https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EcbhiwQyPSpHo_1iKK_ojV0BAi5-WOTrVuP56pChkM3YXw?e=Buid8l](https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EcbhiwQyPSpHo_1iKK_ojV0BAi5-WOTrVuP56pChkM3YXw?e=Buid8l)
  - and this is a snippet of one of our rappers: [https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EBwLaYw-dq1EvxMUNq3BABtw8vRiDWNoQu4YYSuuEAz_5JA?e=g2EQQe3](https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EBwLaYw-dq1EvxMUNq3BABtw8vRiDWNoQu4YYSuuEAz_5JA?e=g2EQQe3)
- Lincoln began a ‘Music in Motion’ series the last Saturday in September. 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. The staff bring in musical instruments for the students to use and lead a group class.
**Sustainability & Resources**

- Children’s Services Consultant Tonia Burton was recently honored with the Elliot Landsman Head Start Community Volunteer Award by Action for a Better Community. She received the award, which recognizes a Head Start volunteer whose record of dedicated community service best reflects the life and work of Mr. Elliott Landsman, at the recent ABC Annual Luncheon.

- The Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) strives to deepen connections across constituencies, create spaces for dialogue, promote the telling and celebrating of one’s stories, and encourage the transformation of libraries into more democratic and diverse organizations. Dr. Reeves and Shamika Fusco attended. Dr. Reeves was very inspired to see other librarians of color and attended several sessions. She was particularly interested in leadership, diversity and mentorship. One session she attended, “Diversity and Research: Impact on Decision Making in Libraries and LIS Education” really resonated. She was surprised to learn that there is minimal research about diversity and librarianship. The presenters Dr. Mark Winston and Dr. Denise Agosto discussed the limited research they had and are seeking more national data on this topic. African Americans make up about 4.5% of the librarian profession. Dr. Reeves is very interested in improving and exploring diversity within RPL. She feels that it is very important to educate people about the profession and to encourage and support current staff who want to pursue higher education in the fields of librarianship, technology, and computer science.

**Stewardship & Curation**

- Director of Historical Resources Christine Ridarsky received word this month that our educational website *RochesterVoices* was selected to receive the 2018 C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC). The award committee was effusive in its praise for the website, noting that any one element would have been competitive for the prize on its own, and that taken as a whole *RochesterVoices.org* is “nothing short of impressive!” The notification letter stated that “the committee felt that the site did an outstanding job serving a broad audience by utilizing multiple outreach methods. Educational materials focused on all grades K-12 and provided a variety of approaches for educators to access content. Your website has the ability to keep growing with the addition of new content and will continue to serve your users in a variety of ways.”
Social Media Engagement, Alicia Gunther reporting

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

Arts and Literature, Nanci Rosenberg Nugent reporting

Programs
- A reading of the play, *The Disciple*, was staged in Kate Gleason Auditorium on Saturday, September 29. The production was supported by the Arts and Literature Division at Central. 45 people attended the performance. The play is written by Ronald Buttarazzi Sr., retired Rochester attorney, and deals with the conflict between Hitler and the Catholic Church during WWII. The play also chronicles the brave resistance of Sophie Scholl and the group of the White Rose. An excerpt of the play was submitted and published in the May 2017, edition of Rundelania, the Arts and Literature Division online literary journal. The playwright intends to stage full productions in the future in Rochester and beyond. Central was given a copy of a paperback edition of the complete play which will go into the Literature Division circulating collection.
• Telling Stories with Art — Artist Sheilagh McGreal taught students how they can take their personal stories and translate them into a work of art. This class used basic art supplies, so students can create their stories at home as well. McGreal, who is an Art Therapist, guided students to create a book of stories and inspirational quotes. All created a cover, 3-4 pages, and learned basic binding technique. This was a great workshop to help students learn a new way to develop self-care and mindfulness skills! One student said, “small things can make a big impact on someone’s life,” and another remarked, “making inspirational keepsakes with everyday materials is good for my soul.”

• Colored Pencil Drawing — Sari Gabi, a local artist instructed a class in beginning colored pencil drawing. This was an enthusiastic group who were eager to learn a technique that they had not done before. This class was the first in a three-part series of pencil classes. Students learned about the materials and techniques for creating realistic paintings and how the pencils can be manipulated to create shadows and other effects. Gabi was given high marks for her teaching and patience and students said, “learning step-by-step was very helpful,” and “colored pencil drawing is very relaxing.”

• Concerts — The Tuesday lunch hour concert series wrapped up in September with two concerts featuring Rochester favorite pianist Bill Watson. Before Mr. Watson’s concert with members of the jazz quartet “A Few Bad Apples,” Deputy Mayor Cedric Alexander presented him with a proclamation from the mayor declaring September 11, 2018, to be “William H. Watson Day.” Sadly, this was his last concert, and Rochester lost a beloved musician with Bill Watson’s passing on September 18.

• Rochester In Your Written Works — A unique Rochester Writes series was hosted by the Literature Division in September. The class was led by Lisa Kleman, local writer and teacher who writes about her ancestors, The Dossenbachs, an influential family in Rochester’s music scene in the early 1900’s. The four-part series explored the use of writing techniques and researching historical records to help writers bring the City of Rochester alive for their readers through vivid imagery.

Outreach

• Lifespan — The Arts & Literature Division’s partnership with Lifespan’s Older Adult Center continued in September with two programs: Carol Moldt facilitated the first Lifespan book discussion group which will continue throughout the year on a seasonal basis. September’s discussion was based on the bestselling, award-winning book, The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of the American Dust Bowl by Timothy Egan. Participants were extremely engaged in the discussion, all sharing either memories of their own of the 1930’s or stories that had been told by family members. One particularly interesting topic was how the Dust Bowl relates to contemporary environmental issues, such as climate change.
• Melissa Manczuk and Nanci Rosenberg-Nugent hosted a bracelet making class which proved to be very popular. The enthusiastic group of talented crafters created memory wire bracelets. The Lifespan folks were very excited to learn this new craft and were especially taken by the variety of beads offered and how easily the bracelets could be customized to suit individual tastes.

![Image of bracelet making class](image1.png)

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

**Meetings**

• Sarah Bishopp Vélez, along with several Center for Urban Entrepreneurship (CUE) partners, met at ESL to look at the possibility of using the Unite Us software to track and refer small business clients. The Unite Us software is currently being used by many human service organizations to track and record the progress of people going through the system, and more easily make referrals to other agencies. Chad Rieflin from the Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) of Rochester gave a demo of the software at ESL and explained how it might be used to suit small business purposes. CUE partners discussed strengths and shortcomings of the software, as well as potential privacy concerns for both the clients and referring agencies. No decision was made yet as to whether CUE partners wish to use Unite Us, but they are seriously interested in implementing it or something similar to create better cooperation in the Rochester community for assisting small business start-ups.

• Bishopp Vélez attended the initial kick-off meeting for the new Finger Lakes Digital Inclusion Coalition, which is being led by Lauren Moore, Executive Director of the Pioneer Library System. At this first meeting, attendees discussed the meanings of digital equity and digital inclusion. They went over the different types of digital divides and the shocking percentages of people in the U.S. without access to broadband in their homes. There was time for open discussion, where some attendees expressed why the formation of a coalition was important to them and the communities they work/live in. The meeting concluded with group break-out sessions where tables shared community insights and knowledge gaps (i.e., what are barriers that make this issue challenging in your community/place of work?). Some of these challenges included lack of staff to instruct patrons in using the Internet, as well as the lack of physical infrastructure to provide affordable high-speed internet in certain communities.

**Small Business Consulting & Research**

• Darlene Richards met with a refugee from Uganda who started his own nonprofit called Rochester Global Refugee Services. [https://www.rocglobalrefugeeservices.org/](https://www.rocglobalrefugeeservices.org/) Faziri Ndahiro is the CEO of this nonprofit. He shared his story with Richards of how he came to the United States. He came here from a Refugee Camp in the Congo. Before he came here, his sister was poisoned and died. He was looking for grants for his cornmeal grinding which would save food and allow the people in Uganda to mill their own corn. He also was looking for grants for microfinance programs and to help other refugees after they
arrive in the United States. He shared with Richards that the Catholic Family Center only helps refugees for the first three months and that his organization, Rochester Global Refugee Services connects them to schools such as the Rochester International Academy etc.

- Richards also met with Justin Ortiz, former RPL employee who now runs his own non-profit, Generation Outreach. https://generationoutreach.us/ Generation Outreach provides on-site support services to children in sixth to twelfth grade. They provide students with the opportunity to “sample” careers while they are still in high school. By doing this, students can make well-informed decisions on college or a career path once they leave high school. Ortiz was looking for grants to purchase a building, pay instructors, and buy equipment. Richards showed him how to search the Foundation Directory Online gave him several brochures about the Division and provided him a list of free-lance grant writers from the local area network.

- 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 such businesses as life coaching, construction painting, salon/day spa, and specialty food stores.

Database Statistics:
- ABI INFORM Collection: 6 sessions, 24 searches, 335 documents
- Business Market Research Collection: 29 sessions, 585 searches, 207 documents
- Entrepreneurship Database: 23 sessions, 196 searches, 4 documents
- Foundation Directory Online Professional, August: 24 searches
- Ibisworld, September: 9 hits
- Small Business Resource Center: 0
- Value Line Usage, August: 395 logins, 5454 searches, 2036 downloads

Children's Services Consultant, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs
- Miranda Hazen and Katie Powell welcomed the first school group of the year on September 13. Fifth graders from School #3 spent a couple of hours at Central learning about the history of the library, touring both buildings, listening to book talks, and learned about circuits through building Tech Monsters with LittleBits. (MCLS Priority: Collaboration; RPL Priority #1: Education & Engagement - promote learning and provide educational experiences)

- Burton and Hazen participated in the bi-annual WXXI Open House. They shared information about library cards, upcoming programs, and offered the Children’s Book Character Trivia Challenge with the prize wheel. They also talked to kids about Pluto and did some charting. (MCLS Priority: Collaboration; RPL Priority #1: Education & Engagement - expand our visible presence in the community)

- Raising a Reader (RAR) — The program is shifting this year due to the completion of the AmeriCorps program and staffing changes. RPL Branches will now have the chance to participate in serving RAR sites. This will create a shift in program and outreach numbers from the Children’s Center to participating branches. This will help the branches with increased circulation and program numbers. Shirley Harrington (Clerk) and Dee Mrak (Cataloging Librarian) worked with Burton to create records for each branch so that the book bags are counted in
circulation. Burton met with staff for two days of training on the RAR model, Theory of Change, Brain Development, Parent Engagement, and Bag Rotation. There have been staffing changes at Lincoln and Arnett, so some additional tweaking will happen, but the goal is to begin rotating bags by November 1. Burton is hoping to fill the open RAR position by October 15, and train along with the new children’s librarian from Lincoln if the timing works out. Since the Lincoln Library service area serves many patrons in extreme poverty, many RAR sites are in that area.

Meetings/Training
• This fall Burton is offering RPL Children’s Librarians training opportunities with the “Fall Training Palooza”. Staff is meeting each Thursday for up to eight weeks to support their work in their libraries. Burton developed the series to help support staff and give them some tools for working with the children we see. Since many of our young patrons are children living in trauma, there are skills front line staff needs to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Director Uttaro and Assistant Director Reeves have been supportive of this training series which has been a culture shift, especially for city branch staff that have not traditionally had the ability to be out of their building for an extended time. The costs of the trainings and staffing have been funded in part through a grant to the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The trainings are:
  1. Raising a Reader - 2 sessions (Sept. 13, 20)
  2. Pyramid Model - 3 sessions (Oct. 2, 3, 4)
  4. Early literacy Asset Analysis - 1/2 session (Oct. 11)
  5. Strategies for Successful Partnerships and Outreach to Families with Young Children - 1/2 session (Oct. 18)
  6. Early Learning Spaces - 1/2 session (Oct. 25)
  8. Supercharged Storytime - storytime with intention to show results -3 sessions (Nov. 1, 15, 29)
  9. Everyone Serves Families with Young Children - 1/2 session (Dec. 9)
Burton was able to receive professional development of her own at the Association for Library Services to Children Institute held the last week of September. This conference is tailored especially for children’s librarians and has a wide range of workshops. Burton hopes to be able to implement information on Peer Coaching which is also mentioned in Pyramid Model Training & Super Charged Storytime. The hope is that by empowering staff to pair up and support each other, we will be able to implement the tools we are learning about and continue growing together as a true team. (RPL Priority #3 Stewardship & Curation- develop, support, and appreciate staff)

Upcoming Events
• On Saturday, October 27, the Children’s Center will host a Not Spooky, but Silly Magic Show. After the show patrons can Trick or Treat throughout the library and complete some silly activities.
• The Children’s Center will also co-host a special event with Big Brothers & Big Sisters (BBBS). Participants will have fun painting pumpkins, learn about services throughout Central through a Scavenger Hunt, and participate in the above activities. This collaboration will welcome BBBS clients and encourage them to meet here regularly to take advantage of our regular programs. Participants will also be getting library cards and encouraged to check out books to read together.
Circulation/Information, Kathy Sochia reporting

Anecdotes

- Patrons who signed up for their first library card were offered a gift card to borrow a Pace bike. The card is good for $5.00 worth of rides. This could mean five 30-minute rides or a 2.5-hour ride. 18 patrons participated.
- Ron Freitag, Natasha Jashurek, and Brian DiNitto helped a patron complete a form online. He stated “I have been working on this for 3 days, I come here to the library and I get it done in 20 minutes. Thank you, you all are really helpful.”
- DiNitto helped a patron with looking up the phone number, address, hours of a building, and map directions. She was so appreciative. She said, “the library always ranks highly in my book”. She said she doesn’t feel that way about all government agencies, but the library is worth the investment.
- DiNitto helped a patron print photo of his apartment from his phone. He was taking his landlord to court for not properly keeping up his apartment and he needed these images printed for presentation to a judge for a court case. He was very grateful that he could print these pictures from his phone on full sheets of paper in color at the library.
- Freitag helped a gentleman who has been coming into the library on a regular basis to get information about refurbishing houses in the city. He was interested in doing work with a group like Habitat for Humanity, and he wanted to begin his journey with maybe working on just one or two houses to start. He has touched base with us repeatedly, updating us on his progress. He started out with good knowledge of carpentry and electrical work but needed help with plumbing. After finding some materials to help him with plumbing questions, he came back to look for information about foreclosed properties. Then, on another return visit he looked for some information about receiving grant money from the city. Each time he returns to the library he repeats how appreciative he is for all the help we’ve given him, and he also loves to catch us up on his endeavors.

Local History and Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The division hosted three formal programs in September. These included a special presentation by Celeste-Marie Bernier entitled “If I Survive” that was organized as part of the citywide celebration of the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial. We also presented the first installment in the 2018-19 season of Rochester’s Rich History, a talk by Tom Grasso on the “History of the Barge Canal”; and the first of the season’s Think Genealogy It’s Saturday series, What’s in a Name, taught by PT Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler.
- Staff also hosted a group of 11th graders from the Eugenio Maria De Hostos Charter School who visited the division as part of an expedition they are doing on the impact of geography on the settlement and development of Rochester. Their visit was preceded by a tour of High Falls Interpretive Center & Museum and surrounding neighborhood with Historical Researcher Amy Pepe. While at the library, Pepe, Historical Researcher Michelle Finn, and Librarian Brandon Fess worked with the students, introducing them to relevant primary and secondary resources within the Local History & Genealogy Division.
- Ridarsky and Fess participated as storytellers in FFRPL’s Spooky Stories in the Stacks ticketed event as part of the Fringe Festival. The event attracted 120 people. Ridarsky recounted the story of Laura Young, one of the ghosts who is alleged to haunt the Central Library because of her drowning death in Johnson-
Seymour Race that runs beneath the library; Fess told a story entitled “The Wagon,” about Walter Vond, a former slave who was a conductor on the Underground Railroad through Parma.

Exhibits
- We installed a new exhibition on the 2nd floor of the Rundel Memorial Building this month to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Lewis Henry Morgan’s birth. “Remembering Lewis Henry Morgan” was developed in partnership with the University of Rochester and features items from the university, the Rochester Museum & Science Center, the Aurora Historical Society, and RPL’s Local History & Genealogy Division. Morgan (1818-1881) was a distinguished Rochester attorney and businessman who served two terms in the New York State legislature. He was also an internationally known scholar who corresponded with Charles Darwin, influenced Karl Marx, and established the fields of anthropology and archaeology in the United States. The exhibit will be on display through January 2019.
- The Stonewall @ 50 Exhibit Planning Team met once this month to identify the main themes/topics for the exhibit, which is scheduled to open in the Anthony Mascioli Gallery in Hacker Hall on March 1, 2019. Finn and Fess also participated. Ridarsky continued her outreach to people and organizations who may be able to aid in exhibit development. This included a meeting with queer author and activist Javi Mason and Kristin Cook of Trillium Health. Ridarsky and Mason discussed ways of connecting with and representing LGBTQ People of Color in the Stonewall exhibit, while she and Cook discussed objects Trillium might be able to contribute to the Stonewall exhibit, including a sculpture of a dress crafted from condoms that was used as part of an AIDS awareness and prevention campaign. Both agreed to serve on the exhibit planning committee. Mason will also assist with outreach to another LGBTQ POC.

Community Outreach/Meetings
- The High Falls Interpretive Center & Museum resumed its Fall schedule this month, open weekends only, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturdays and 12 – 4 p.m. Sundays. Librarian Gabe Pellegrino continues to staff the center most Saturdays with substitute Librarian Chris Brennan and Ridarsky splitting Sunday shifts. The center welcomed 574 visitors in September. Site manager and Historical Researcher Amy Pepe continues to schedule and lead tours of the center and surrounding neighborhood. She led two tours this month: one for students from the Eugenio Maria De Hostos Charter School (mentioned above) another for students from Nazareth College.
- Finn and Ridarsky held an informational meeting with teachers from the Rochester City School District (RCSD) to kick off our new pilot program, National History Day for Rochester City Schools. This program is being run by Ridarsky and Finn in partnership with Steve LaMorte, head of Social Studies at RCSD, and Elizabeth Call from University of Rochester Libraries Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation. It has been nearly 20 years since RCSD students have participated in National History Day, and we are excited to bring this opportunity for educational enrichment to today’s city school students.
- The new Reconnect Rochester Street Film, Razed\Rise, debuted this month at the Cinema Theater as part of a program examining the detrimental effects that highways have had on city neighborhoods and what is currently being done to address these problems. Finn appears as an expert in the film, providing historical context for the construction of Rochester’s Inner Loop. Ridarsky participated in a pre-event interview on WXXI’s “Need to Know” show and participated in a panel discussion that followed the film screening at the event. The film can be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kagbN2GITxE . The “Need to Know” episode is available at http://www.wxxinews.org/post/watch-reversing-what-highways-have-done-cities-rochester.
- Ridarsky attended a meeting of Frederick Douglass community stakeholders sponsored by the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI). During the meeting, FDFI founders, including Douglass’s great-great-
great grandson Kenneth Morris Jr., laid out preliminary plans to relocate the organization’s headquarters to Rochester by 2020. The organization is seeking local programming partners, as well as funding.

- Volume 78 Issue 1 of the Rochester History journal was published and distributed this month. The issue features an article by Julia Novakovic, archivist at The Strong, entitled “Lifelong Fascinations: A Portrait of Margaret Woodbury Strong.” Staff are currently editing the next issue, which will explore Rochester’s centennial celebration in 1934. Several other articles are in various stages of editing and review, allowing us to be optimistic that we will be able to catch up and get back to a regular publishing schedule by the end of 2019.

Collections

- September was an intensive period for collection maintenance. Fess carried out routine filing of pamphlets and ephemera over the course of the month and provided guidance to Page Jordan Wallance in his ongoing project of sorting and reorganizing newspaper clipping files. We took in one new special collection, a substantial collection of material on Rochester’s railroad and automotive history. Fess also had to organize and carry out immediate preservation measures on many other objects found in offices during our space reorganization. Some of these objects have been added to the document cases, while a fragile scrapbook was described in ArchiveSpace as the Rochester Transit Corporation Twenty-Five Year Club scrapbook. The reorganization project also yielded abundant materials for the pamphlet and photograph files. Volunteer Susan Potera is continuing to organize the maps in the cases in the hallway, and intern Kaye Knoll finished arranging and describing all but one of the Strong Museum transfers that she has been working with.

- Clerk Hope Christansen spent a substantial amount of time editing records of 134 Rochester Historical Society Publication Fund Series volumes (1887, v1 & 1923, v1 - 1972, v25). This is motivated by two reasons: 1) adding/correcting dates of each volume which were lost in May during the Catalogue Renumeration Project and 2) relocation of “2nd best” copies of this series, which are now being shelved in Division (LH) while “best” copies are to be preserved in Shared Stacks (LH-SS); two reserve copies are being placed/remain in our regular Stacks (LH-OS).

Digital Projects

- BOCES intern Ethan McBride and Clerk Veronica Shaw finished scanning our Ready Reference card file, containing approximately 25,000 note cards. This “Dynamic Duo” has now turned to the scanning of the equally massive Biography Index file and are already half-way through it. Barring any unforeseen staffing changes or mechanical problems, we are increasingly confident that the majority of the files suitable for conversion to databases will be scanned by the end of the year.

Social Media

- Staff from the Local History and Genealogy Division contributed content for 14 social media posts in September: 5 on Twitter, 5 on Facebook, 3 Facebook Events, and 2 blog entries on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. The reach of these posts was an impressive 3,845. This includes 2,086 on Facebook, 813 on Twitter, and 846 on our blog; 84 people engaged with Local History posts on Facebook, 17 on Twitter, and 14 on our blog. PT Library Assistant Emily Morry contributed the blog entry: “Out of the Loop: a Before and After Look at the Neighborhoods of the Inner Loop, Part 3”. Substitute Librarian, Christopher Brennan contributed ““I Scream for Ice Cream: Abbott’s Frozen Custard.”
Volunteer/Intern hours

- September marked the return of our genealogy docents, who take the summer off when we are closed on Saturdays. Pat Southcomb, Stephen Clark, and Bob Coomber worked a total of 15 hours and assisted 6 patrons. In addition, we were assisted by two volunteers (Susan Potera – 1 hour; Ira Srole – 25.5 hours), two college interns (Karen “Kaye” Knoll, RIT – 15.75 hours; Nick Andrusin, SUNY Brockport – 28.75), and one intern from Monroe BOCES I (Ethan McBride – 27 hours).

Science and History, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Programs

- The division received a grant from the American Library Association and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to provide programs pertaining to the theme of “Revisiting the Founding Era.” Two programs took place as a result:
  - Jennifer Byrnes taught a class at the Office of Adult & Career Education Services, a part of the Rochester City School District. Students were all young adult new Americans, representing 25 different countries. The Bill of Rights was discussed, and students discussed if they had those same freedoms in their home country. The students then broke into two groups and drafted a constitution for their imaginary country. Jennifer received this email from Pamela Viera, their teacher.
    “Jennifer, it was truly a pleasure having you and my students were so extremely engaged and enjoyed the activity so much. You are a wonderful resource with such very pertinent information. I certainly hope that you will be able to return with another presentation in the future on voting. I am glad this connection has been made. Again, thank you very much. I will let the students know to work on their Dreamland immigration policies for you. Regards, Pamela.”
  - The second program was a panel discussion on “Creating the Constitution,” facilitated by Dr. Timothy Kneeland, chair of the history department at Nazareth College. Panelists included Adam Chodiak (Channel 8), Gary Craig (Democrat & Chronicle), Scott Smith (City of Rochester), Kent Gardner (Center for Governmental Research), Hubert Van Tol (Pathstone), and Amy Pepe (Central).

- The division hosted a program for librarians in the Monroe County and Pioneer library systems called “Our Turn to Serve: Helping Vets Access Services.” Representatives from Veterans Outreach, NY Serves, and NC Serves discussed programs for veterans.

- Libraries After Dark: Lily Anthony attended the Balloon Pop. Many people threw darts, but only one person got three balloons in three throws! Alla Levi taught a Hula Hooping workshop and also helped with the Rochester Juggling Club

Partner Organization Statistics

- LROC – 88 patrons served
- Volunteer Legal Services Project – 4
- Medical Student – 23
- STI Testing – 9 tested/1 positive
- Greater Rochester Coordinated Network – 2
Outreach

- Jennifer Byrnes had a table at the University of Rochester School of Medicine’s Community Partner event. Medical students learned about the library and discussed volunteer opportunities at Health Central and the option of doing a community health improvement course rotation at Central.
- Byrnes discussed the patent center and other resources at The Entrepreneur’s Network Women’s Business Accelerator program.
- Byrnes was on WXXI radio’s “Connections with Evan Dawson” along with Kent Gardner and Adam Chodiak to promote the “Creating the Constitution” panel discussion.
- Kate Meddaugh and Jennifer Byrnes met with Rich Notargiacomo of RIT’s Venture Creations to discuss how we can work together to better address the needs of the users of the Carlson Center, and ways in which the Carlson Center can help the incubator companies that are a part of Venture Creations. Kate Meddaugh will have office hours at the Venture Creations Incubator office as part of their “Ask the Expert” program. Rich Notargiacomo, or one of his contacts, will come to the library periodically to provide our inventors with help in taking their invention to the next level.

Consulting

- The Carlson Patent & Trademark Center helped 36 people with Intellectual Property needs this month: 17 in person, 7 by phone, 6 by email, 6 database use. At the time of this report, webpage hits were not available for the month of September. August webpage views were 49.

Exhibits/Displays

- Steve Nash partnered with Dan Cody of the Rochester Historical Society to host an exhibit about the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. “The Great War: Rochestarians at Home and Abroad in WWI” is on display until the end of November.
- The Prisoners of War/Missing in Action “Chair of Honor” has arrived. A ceremony will be held soon to dedicate the chair. The chair will be on permanent display in the Vietnam Learning Center.

Anecdotes

- Alla Levi has continued the “Movies on 3!” program that started in August. These movies run from 2-4pm Monday through Friday and have attracted a following and the group has become friends. One of its participants recently told Alla that “It feels nice to have the same interested people coming together daily to watch these movies. Afterwards we sit around and discuss what we saw, and I feel very good to be a part of this daily gathering.” Another patron recently approached Alla and said that she is taking some science courses and would like to see some DVDs on chemistry, mathematics, physics and the periodic table of elements. Alla was able to accommodate her and the patron ended up taking notes while watching these DVDs. The patron later told Alla that these DVDs helped her in her classes and she did well on her tests. Other participants enjoyed these more technical DVDs and said that they learned something. An average of 5 people per day attended the movie viewings, so for the month for September 2018, with 19 days of movies, we had 95 participants.
- Kate Meddaugh is now a Carlson Center user’s “Angel.” Every time he comes in, he reminds Meddaugh that she was put in the Center the first day he came in by God and is a blessing to him.
- Steve Nash worked with several Pittsford Sutherland AP World History students who came to Central seeking resources for an assignment based on the book A History of the World in 6 Glasses by Thomas Standage. The book tells the story of humanity from the Stone Age to the 21st Century as seen through the lens off beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, and cola.
Teen Central – Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Chess has really become popular with many of the kids using the teen space. Dennis Williams conducted 15 programs with 32 participants. We will begin looking into a tournament. Videogames are also very popular. Every Saturday, except the 8th we held a videogame program. There were 25 participants.
- Rochester Young Scholars (RYSAS) is back again on Saturdays. SUNY Geneseo students who are in their Education program come and work with our city students.
- During the summer, Teen Central is frequently visited by former teens, now college students. This year we were fortunate to feature a young man named Senge Schove as a program presenter. Senge and his family started coming to Teen Central when he was 9 years old to browse the comic collection, an interest that Senge’s mother handed down to her son. Senge always gave input on our collection and enjoyed discussing comics with librarians and other patrons alike while he read for hours in a comfortable rocking chair with a mountain of books beside him. This summer he asked if any local libraries were hiring. Senge had previously shared with me comics that he had written and put up on the internet. I asked if he would like to be a visiting artist and create a program for teens about comics. He came up with an amazing presentation. The program (Comics Everything!) encompassed: the importance of stories, character types, and basically why we love comics with great protagonists and villains. When Senge presented his program on comics to an audience of young and oldish comic fans, he was clearly in his element. He spoke confidently, presented high level concepts in an accessible way and fielded questions and discussion with poised thoroughness. I believe that one of the greatest satisfactions a librarian can have is to witness the growth of a young person into an amazing adult.

Outreach/Community Contacts

- Williams met with Joshua Pettinger regarding the coming year for imagineYOU. We are looking at instituting a curriculum.
- Williams met with Justin Ortiz to help him with a grant proposal.
- On Saturday September 8, YA librarian Xandi DiMatteo represented Central Library at the Monroe High School Kick Off event. Teen Central has participated in this event for 3 years, and it is a great way to connect with the community. This year was an especially triumphant opportunity to show off the new renovation of Monroe High School. Coming events and opportunities at Central Library were promoted, most especially the Greater Rochester Teen Read and the imagineYOU digital media lab’s all ages photography workshops. To encourage teens and children to build their own book collections at home, 70+ donated books were given out to teens.

Meetings and Trainings

- Williams attended the ROC tech conference at the Riverside Convention Center. The keynote speakers were fantastic. Several of the breakout sessions like Cloud Services and Hacking were extremely illuminating. However, nothing compared to gaining effective insight into change like Karen Sammon’s “Connecting a Diverse, Inclusive Culture to Drive Innovation and Results” session. She owns Partech, and when she took over this hardware and systems integration company from her father it was starting to crumble in a world of disruption. What she did next was led her company on a journey to remove it from
a culture of fear. That journey continues today, and many of the strategies and tactics she’s developed are based on fact and distinguished by values.

**imagineYOU Updates**

**Programs**

- The imagineYOU Media Lab had over 180 visits for the month of September. The lab is now open on Saturdays from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. There were four Saturday photography classes in September. The library was able to provide two canon 60D cameras and one Canon 80D camera for participants who did not bring their own camera. Two classes taught camera basics and went through each setting of a DSLR camera. The other two classes taught lighting and photograph composition. Using evaluation forms, participants rated the classes 5 stars in overall quality of the class, 5 stars in quality of the presenters, and 5 stars in value toward meeting your photography goals with 5 being the maximum rating.
- The glass room continues to be used by teens who love to dance. A young adult dancer has applied to volunteer to teach dance on Mondays and Tuesdays. The glass room is also seen use by groups of teens listening to music together on the MacBook’s.
- A young adult has applied to volunteer in the recording studio. Due to his assistance in helping teens record music, the studio has seen a sharp rise in use. This month many songs have been completed in the studio including a few that were completed in a single day. If use continues to increase at this rate imagineYOU will need to have a sign-up for studio time.
- Champion Academy continues to use our glass room to record their news show. imagineYOU can provide a 4K camcorder, tripod, and lighting.
- The Girls Who Code class is hosted in the imagineYOU lab. Eight teen girls learn computer coding from University of Rochester college students.

**Branch Library Updates**

**Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting**

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

- **Arnett Branch**: Shetora Banks facilitated a field-trip for teen girls. “A Call to Woman of Color,” at Trillium Health, the location for workshops with local authors, fellowship and good food. The teens were able to visit representatives from local community agencies that help teens with problems. She continues to provide video-gaming space for teens with board-games and card games included. Shetora continues to provide teens employment assistance.
- **Lincoln Branch**: Vera Haygood provides ongoing assistance to teens with internet usage, email set-up, job readiness skills and homework assistance during out of school time. She makes room for teens to play the Roblox digital gaming platform and community group gaming. The community group gaming has also pulled a few parents that want to play games like Connect-4, Chess, Mancala and Uno. She is witnessing more bonding taking place in the teenspace when parents play games with their teens!
- **Maplewood Community Library**: Mark Dixon continues to provide teens with internet assistance and employment searches. He provided an S.T.E.M activity for teens using the Nintendo Switch LABO augmented reality set. The teens are building an interactive cardboard robot which they can wear and interact with the Nintendo Switch handheld tablet. The project takes groups of teens to accomplish the task!
Phillis Wheatley Community Library: Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford had the youth participate in National Cheese Pizza Day for the monthly mix and mingle event. Many of the youth are new immigrants from Africa. Bostick-Beckford has started a Tween Tuesday program. Tweens can participate in crafts or playing games. The youth decorated old VHS cases that will be used as pencil and jewelry boxes. Bostick-Beckford continues to provide teens with resume assistance, college information, work permit applications, and Department of Motor Vehicles forms for learners permits and driver’s licenses.

Sully Branch: George Carter continues to conduct STEM programming with Nintendo Switch LABO. He has been teaching and playing chess with newcomers to Sully. Carter continues to assist teens with job readiness training and employment searches.

Teen Central: Lydia Williams-Hylton and John Hylton facilitated a Ping-Pong tournament for teens with prizes. They have been assisting many teens with job searches in groups. One group of teens would work on job applications while a second group would be brainstorming on what jobs they could apply for with their current skills. We are continuing to teach the teenagers life and coping skills to make it throughout their lives.

A staff versus students PS4 tournament using the Injustice superhero game was held this month. Staff have contacted service staff from Planned Parenthood and Center for Youth to help teens with emergencies (pregnancy and homelessness).

Branch Community Outreach/Meetings, Joan Lee reporting

Joan Lee attended a community meeting about the future of the International Plaza at “La Marketa.” This meeting was co-sponsored by City Commissioner Baye Muhammad.

Lee attended the Growing Downtown arts meeting to share information about the “Music in Motion” program. This ten-week event will be held at the Lincoln Branch and is co-sponsored by the Eastman School of Music and the Joseph Avenue Arts, and Culture Alliance.

Lee also participated in the Community Story Walk paint day event that was held at Sully/Ryan Center. This was the official kick-off and was co-sponsored by the Beechwood community Association. It was well attended, and all enjoyed working with the lead artist Shaun Dunwoody.

Outreach, Librarian Shamika Fusco reporting

Renaissance Academy Charter School had their back to school bash and it was great! I was able to sign some of the children up for library cards and rekindle some relationships. I worked as the librarian there when the school first opened and most of the kids present remembered me. It was great to see them, very fun and refreshing. I will be doing another visit in the months to come.

During the Black Girls Matter event, I had another opportunity to network alongside of Taleah (Local Author). She read her book and sold autographed copies. She also gave me a handful of bookmarks featuring her book and a poster so that I may include her story in my profession. I also provided books that only featured African American
girls/women characters. The girls were overwhelmed with excitement and had a hard time just choosing one. It was a very exciting moment for them as well as myself.

- The Joint Conference for Librarians of Color (JCLC) was a phenomenal experience. While at the conference, I learned how to advocate and get the support that I need as an African American Librarian. It reminded me of the importance of having a diverse and multicultural collection as well as different techniques and strategies to make our libraries look and feel inclusive.

**Outreach/Story times**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>School #1 (1st Day of School Greeter)</td>
<td>200+</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td>Renaissance Academy Charter School</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>Homeless Connect</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>1September 13th Ward Fall Festival (Rotary)</td>
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<td>Renaissance Academy Charter School</td>
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<td>September 20</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
<td>Black Girls Matter</td>
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**Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting**

**Programs**

- Monroe County Foster Care contacted Librarian Anne Brown about hosting an information session for interested potential foster parents at our branch and she happily agreed. They had a good turnout, and Brown even referred some patrons to sessions being held at other libraries because they could not make it to ours. It seemed to be a successful event, so hopefully some of the attendees are seriously considering fostering!

- TASC tutoring has started up again and so far, our attendance is better than ever. We are now offering tutoring two nights a week, during the evenings thanks to our extended hours that began in July. We have also arranged tutoring for children on Thursday evenings 4:00 pm-6:00 pm. Both types of tutoring were possible due to additional NYS funds secured for the Arnett Branch by State Senator Michael Ranzenhofer. (*Priority #1 Every RPL location addresses the unique needs of their communities*)

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

- In September Brown was able to do outreach both at the Farmer’s Market and at a neighborhood event. Brown reports that the Bull’s Head Revitalization event was a fun opportunity that enabled her to interact with many children. She set up a book cover guessing game with spinner toys as a prize and gave out books. The kids really enjoyed winning and playing with their prizes, and the parents and event organizers were very grateful that the library was able to be there. (*Priority #1c: Expand our visible presence in our community*)

- The book guessing game was used quite a bit during September. It was also used by Tehan at farmers’ market events, a Rochester Police Department Outreach event and at an open house event at the newly renovated John Walton Spenser School 16. Books By Bike was at several of the events mentioned above and continues to be a very popular service.
Anecdotes/Other

- Anne Brown will soon leave the Arnett Branch Library to become the Director of the Walworth Library. We are very grateful for the outstanding work Brown has performed at the Arnett Branch and for RPL. She is a kind, hardworking, dedicated and talented librarian who has served our community very well.
- Brown met with Uttaro and RPL Personnel Manager Ana Suro to talk about what it’s like transitioning into and working in a director position and what she might expect with staffing and personnel issues. Both meetings were extremely helpful in answering some questions for Brown. Both Uttaro and Suro were very supportive and offered their help and advice in the future, which Brown greatly appreciated.

Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs

- September was a busy month of outreach for children’s librarian Kim Whittemore. On September 2, she (along with Caitlyn Stahovic of Maplewood) worked the NYLA booth at the state fair. On Friday, September 21, Whittemore ran the Plinko and Fishbowl game tables for the “Fringe Fest Carnival” at Central Library (Whittemore says she chased a lot of errant ping pong balls through Hacker Hall). Whittemore’s story time outreach to the preschools at Holy Cross and Creative Beginnings resumed this month as well.
- Whittemore also reports that the Children’s Room has a popular new toy. She writes: “Magna-Tiles came to Charlotte in the ‘Build’ Ready-to-Read kit from Central. The tiles are colorful plastic pieces in geometric shapes that are magnetized so that kids can build structures with them. Magna-Tiles: Science Fun for Kids was our September science activity. We’ve also made them available during our Fun Friday activities. These two boxes of Magna-Tiles are requested pretty much every day and are a big hit with a wide range of ages.” (Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations)

Anecdotes/Other

- Adult librarian Karen Duff who manages our book club, got some nice affirmation from a patron. She writes: “While having breakfast with co-workers at the Lakeside Haven Restaurant, I spotted a couple of our regulars. I went over to say hello and see how they were doing. The husband took me aside and told me how much the Food For Thought book discussion group means to his wife. They are an older couple and experiencing some of the common limitations that come with aging. He was so grateful for the joy that books, the Charlotte Branch and our book club bring to his wife.”
Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs
- We hosted a well-attended library open house with games and henna. Teen Librarian Antoine McDonald booked Roc City Henna to come out for 2 hours to do henna on kids, which they loved. Our first scavenger hunt was at the open house, so we had kids walking all over the place with boards of pictures to find. They really liked this. I am planning a Halloween hunt for our Halloween party in October. Total Participation: 59

- McDonald held his very first Health and Fitness Bootcamp program which turned out to be a success. The space worked out well. I also really enjoyed participating in the program myself and the workout DVD really gave us all a run for our money. Given the enthusiastic responses I received from those involved, I look forward to continuing the program throughout the month of September and into the month of October. The second Health and Fitness program turned out to be another success! I was very happy to see the number of attendants to the program doubled since the first time it was offered.

- Sarah Ngo hosted a lot of bingo and had candy for prizes, created a scavenger hunt for our Open House, which was a huge hit. Our literacy aide went around and changed everything so by the second day it was a more challenging search. Total Participation: 80

Community Outreach/Meetings
- Ngo was asked to attend the School #12 PTA meeting this month. She was able to give a short talk to the parents and teachers that attended. I talked up library programs for October and had a library card sign up at a table. I had two kids sign up for cards and I passed out a lot of M-3 forms for library hours. I was asked to also attend their Open House next month and set up a table at that event too.

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lydon reporting

Programs
- Contact has been reestablished with the Rochester Education Foundation and there are plans to hold several College Connect programs in November. As always, we let our teens know that we are available to help them with any school work and college prep they may need to do. Our goal is to show our teens that college is not just obtainable but possible.

- We continue to hold the Neighbors as Partners (NAP) programs at the Lincoln branch twice a month with regular attendance. In September the group had a speaker from NY Connects come speak and held a computer class on the second meeting of the month. We also had Cornell Cooperative Extension come to table in September. In speaking with the representative from Cornell, I also learned they have a wide
variety of other programming that they offer. She and I arranged for a program in October focused on nutrition, where attendees will receive a $5 voucher to the Foodlink Food truck, which will also be in attendance at the end of the program for patrons to use.

Anecdotes/Other

- On September 12, Brian Kane of Rochester Literacy Volunteers visited the library to introduce himself as well as the new volunteer coordinator, Denise Smith. We briefly spoke about the role that the Literacy Volunteers play within the branch and how we could best support each other moving forward.
- AmeriCorps – The third and last year of the Community Navigator AmeriCorps program has ended. We had a total of 557 attendees for the Financial Literacy programming, with 364 improved post-tests or reported increase in confidence due to programming throughout the year. It was a wonderful year and I look forward to staying in touch with Carol Latucca beyond her service as an AmeriCorps member.

Toy Library Updates

- September’s numbers were the highest ever for the month with 598 visitors compared to 479 from last year. We had 18 groups with a total of 85 visitors. Last year we had 20 groups with 112 visitors.
- Early in the month, Sarah Fitts-Romig did a Facebook promotion of our Travel Kits. She took pictures of the contents of 38 kits and posted them on Facebook. There was a huge interest in the post and it was shared 23 times. We have never had a response like that to a posting on social media. The photos made it extremely easy for Jean Hurst, support teacher, to share what we had available with teachers at School #8 and GCCS. They selected 10 kits and will be picking them up Saturday. This will be the second year that the Toy Library has partnered with School #8 and GCCS, cycling toys in and out of kindergarten classrooms.
- Parenting Village, a support organization for new mothers visited on Friday September 28. They came with mothers, children and volunteers. Their visit included playtime in the Toy Library and snacks in the Community Room. It was a very positive visit and I expect that new mothers in the network will be making use of our resources. In fact, one mother did borrow toys that day and has returned since for playtime with her young child.

Lyell Branch, Pat Connor reporting

Programs

- We continued our celebration of special “Days” by celebrating National Play-Doh® Day, National Cheese Pizza Day, Math Storytelling Day, Ice Cream Cone Day and International Dot Day. Ice Cream Cone Day included a reading of the book *Ice-Cream Cones for Sale* by Elaine Greenstein and ice cream cones for all those in the library—fittingly on the last full day of summer. International Dot Day was begun in 2009 to explore bravery, creativity and self-expression using the book *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds. After the book was shared, children were given the opportunity to create their own dot pictures using dot markers and dot stickers; edible dots (M&Ms and Skittles) were shared (*Priority #1 Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations*)
- The library was happy to welcome back TASC students in September after their summer vacation. Instructor Jim Lynch had several students complete the program and move on in their endeavors. We have seen both old and new faces as the students return. Several students also meet with Lynch at his classes at the Phillis Wheatley Community Library. (*Priority #1 - Education and Engagement*)
- New for adults in September was a 4th Friday Cookies and Coffee hour where patrons were given the opportunity to talk about what's on their mind and what they would like to see at the library. To be
honest, a lot more coffee drinking and cookie eating was done, but hopefully more sharing is in the future. Thanks to the Monroe branch for this idea.

Community Outreach/Meetings
- Pat Connor and Julian Santiago represented the Lyell Library at the Lexington Community Farm Garden Party and Open House. They joined with Common Ground Health's PlayROC initiative to set up a pop-up play space on the grounds. Connor has been speaking with Nathaniel Mich from Foodlink about future collaboration—perhaps story times in the garden next spring and maybe a story walk. The garden is sponsored by Foodlink and neighbors can get plots of land to grow vegetables for their families. Foodlink also uses the property to grow produce for the Curbside Market.
- Connor also began conversations with the staff at the Universal PreKindergarten classes at School #17 to begin scheduling class visits to the school. (Priority #2 - Sustainability and Resources)
- We welcomed City Council Representative Molly Clifford who used the library as the meeting point for her newly formed "Northwest Walks" group. In the next few weeks, Ms. Clifford is urging residents to meet her at a variety of starting points to walk the neighborhood on Saturday mornings. Cherelin continues to represent the library at the neighborhood association meetings.

Anecdotes/Other
- Jessenia C. was thrilled to receive her prize of a Nook Tablet as the overall winner in the Adult Summer Reading Program. Adult readers submitted a raffle slip each week for the books they had read. Weekly prizes were Barnes and Noble gift cards. We are grateful to the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library for providing these prizes as well as prizes for our children and teen readers.

Maplewood branch, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs
- The classes for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are trying a book club concept. The class is reading a book on Monday and Thursday and watching the movie on Friday. The idea started from a student who was trying to read *The Giver*. They tried this idea out with *The Giver* but discovered it was a difficult book and would take too long to go through with the limited time available. A small group might be formed later to try it again. From this experience a picture book was chosen. They read the picture book *Alexander and The Terrible, Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day* and watched the movie. The class will be working with “Cinderella” for at least two weeks. (Priority #1 Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations)
- There have been many teens from Aquinas Institute that need community service for Participation in Government class. Other volunteers are from St John Fisher as part of a community service project and also students who need community service hours for their scholarships for First Generation. The First-Generation Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to high school students who exhibit a high degree of motivation and academic potential, and whose parents did not graduate from college. (Priority #2 Sustainability & Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships)
Community Outreach/Meetings

- I spoke to a group of students at St John Fisher about incorporating the library into their community service projects. This was a way to find students who would be interested in the program Seeds for Success. There were nine students who were interested in working with our young patrons.

Anecdotes/Other

- Our children’s librarian Nancy Cholewa left Maplewood for the full-time youth position at Arnett Library. With this loss there will be a decrease in programming until a new librarian can be hired. The children of Maplewood had a going away party for Cholewa where they had made cards and had cake. Many didn’t understand why she was leaving, and it made her tear up.

- Stahovic-Barnes attended the Open House for Clara Barton School #2. They are currently located in the Marshall school building on Ridgeway while their original building is under construction. She brought along library card applications for children, teen and adults along with bookmarks, pencils, stickers and an example of the blue MCLS card and child YES card. The school also provided free books to give away. People stopped by the library table where they could learn about getting a library card and the homework help that Maplewood offers after school. The kids loved picking out a sticker and pencil to take home. One little girl picked out a book to give to her teacher and stayed to chat. She assumed Stahovic-Barnes worked at the school as a teacher. When Stahovic-Barnes explained she was a librarian in a public library which is outside of school, she was blown away! She asked if the public library was a place she could go to and Stahovic-Barnes said “Absolutely! Anyone is welcome to visit the public library!” It was all too good to be true for her! (Priority #1c: Expand our visible presence in our communities)

Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Murder Mystery Night was held on Saturday September 29. We had 53 people signed up for this special evening. At 7:00 p.m. there was a crowd waiting outside our front doors. The cast from our Reader’s Theater Club plus a few of our staff members participated in this program. We had two other staff members that registered the guests and took care of the refreshments. Alicia Gunther sent me a framework for a script which we adapted for the Monroe Branch. Since our Branch opened in 1930, we had the time set in 1929.

Once we decided to have the “murder” happen that evening, Gunther supplied us with a cool looking mannequin. Corinne Clar did a great job enlarging the pictures of the cast, so the audience had a better sense of the characters. The audience was engaged and was clearly having a fun time. We started out with delicious desserts of mini-cupcakes, cookies and a variety of candy. We also served coffee, caffeinated & decaffeinated, and simply water.
The mystery started on the adult floor and then made its way down to the children’s room, passing the body outside the children’s room bathroom. In the children’s room, the detective interrogated all the possible suspects. At the end, the audience voted on the culprit. After the mystery was solved, we gave away 3 mystery books, one of which was *Baby Teeth* written by our long time Page, Zoje Stage. Stage sent us a signed copy for this event. All the patrons that picked the correct “murderer” received a card good for 10 free holds/prints at the Monroe Branch. The feedback has been so positive about this program. One patron on Monday said we should make this an annual event. This program was a lot of work but well worth the effort. (*Priority #1B Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations*)

- Children’s Services librarian Margaret Paige began promoting our first sensory-friendly story & movie program. Although we strive to make all our programs inclusive, sensory-friendly movies are especially welcoming for families with children on the autism spectrum. We’ll keep lights up, the volume lower, and kids can get up, walk, sing, etc. Paige reports “My plan is to also include manipulatives like Brain Flakes, which were a popular activity for all ages at a movie time that we held in the past. They are a quieter option than LEGOs, making them ideal for open-ended building projects during movie time. We sent an e-mail with the program information to Autism Up and a request for a representative and/or community support information for families to have available at the library for the program.

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

- Outreach at #35 School’s Fall Open House on Thursday, September 27: we had 80 visitors at our Monroe Branch Library table and gave out all our program flyers! Although many of the families live in different city neighborhoods and might not be attending our programs, they were able to ask questions about library cards and acquire the M-3 brochure with all the MCLS library hours and contact information. One of our programs, to be held on Tuesday, October 30, piqued the interest of many families within and without the Monroe/Park/Upper Monroe neighborhoods: “Pig in the Pumpkin Patch.” Partly due to its timing, the program appealed to families who pick up their children from school because dismissal from #35 is at 3:30pm.

**Anecdotes/Other**

- A few weeks ago, a young man stopped by the children’s room. I didn’t recognize him at first. He asked me how he could support the library. I gave him the phone number for the Friends and Foundation. Then he began to reminisce about coming to the children’s room when he was young. I asked him how old he was. He replied, “I’m 24.” He then gave me his name and I remembered his family coming to the library. It turned out that he was in our summer reading programs for years. He started a business when he was 19 years old. His cousins are now running this business since he now lives in California where he started another business. I stood in awe at this young man. He not only wants to give back to the library but to the City as well. This made my day. He had such good memories of the children’s room and all the books he read. Now, he wants to start giving back. I’m pretty sure I will be hearing about this young man again.

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

**Programs**

- We got back into the school swing of things this month by welcoming back our after-school crowd and getting to know some new faces. We have been extremely busy after school with more and more kids coming in, and lots of needed homework help. The Rec Center has brought in some students from St. John Fisher to help kids with school work, and they are using the library space a few days a week to
provide some small group and one-on-one homework help. This is a much-needed service so we are grateful for the extra academic support for the elementary students we serve.

- Story Times started up again this month and Jen Nesbitt has been enjoying getting to meet some new Pre-K students and introducing them to the library. They are little sponges who love stories, songs, and dancing during their half hour library visits. Our early literacy support continues to help our little friends learn and grow and reinforces the curriculum being taught in the schools. It also helps them build a lifetime relationship with both books and libraries.

- Recently, George Carter and Tim Ryan noticed that two of our younger teen patrons were struggling with their homework. Carter and Ryan stepped in to help. Carter communicated with the boy’s parents about their struggles to make them aware of the situation and Ryan setup a time everyday where the boys could get assistance with their work in all subjects from history to math. In the last week, Ryan has assisted the boys with their history homework regarding the Jamestown settlement as well as other European Colonialization of North America and the effects it had on the Native American population. This is a common occurrence at the Sully Branch and it seems many kids/teens are being left behind. Carter and Ryan are doing what they can from a library perspective to help all the teens in the Sully Branch achieve their educational goals.

- Recently, three people that I assisted with job applications in the past came into the library within minutes of each other. They were all offered jobs and needed assistance with filling in paperwork to get background checks done. A few days later one of the three men returned to inform us that he passed his background check. He’ll be starting his new job in a few weeks.

- Ryan gathered a large group of teens together to participate in a virtual reality program in Sully’s literacy room using his personal PlayStation 4 Virtual Reality hardware and software. The teens were able to enjoy a VR experience called The Grand Museum. This virtual museum environment contains 82 models of real world ancient works of art, originating from many ancient cultures of Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa. Actual ancient relics that are found on display at the great museums around the world were photo-scanned by IGIIID and used for the VR experience. The teens were able to investigate the archives and to view and discover the history of various art pieces. The teens were able to virtually experience:
  - 26 ancient Greek & Roman art pieces
  - 16 ancient Egyptian art pieces
  - 23 ancient Asian art pieces
  - 13 later post-classic era European art pieces
  - The archives

- Ryan also gathered the teens on a separate occasion in September for another virtual reality program. This time he gave the teen’s access to the VR experience Apollo 11. Apollo 11 allowed the Sully teens to experience this historic event through the eyes of those who lived through it. Using a mix of original archive audio and video together with accurate recreations of the spacecraft and locations, all set to inspirational music. Teens could take control of the craft for docking, landing, and the moon walk. This was a great experience for the teens that not only educated them, but also left a lasting impression and deep respect for the men and women who worked on the Apollo program during NASA’s golden era.

(Academic Imperative: Priority #1 Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations)

Anecdotes/Other

- Children’s Librarian Jen Nesbitt had a fun opportunity to attend the School #33 Open House event this month. Her library table was full of bookmarks, free book giveaways, small prizes, and plenty of information about library services. She enjoyed seeing many familiar faces and meeting new ones! One very memorable interaction Nesbitt had was with a single mother who was new to the area. She had
two children who just started school at School #33. She explained how she had just moved up here from Florida and had been living with her children in a shelter near downtown. She was very happy and grateful to hear that Sully is right down the hall from her children’s new school, and that her little family would have the opportunity to continue visiting the public library now that they are out of the shelter. Moments like this always emphasize how important our city branch libraries are, and why we love being a light in the dark to so many people at different times in their lives.

- Several members from the community, of all ages, worked with Shawn Dunwoody on Saturday September 15, to paint the sidewalk in front of the library. This was part of a playful sidewalks grant that the friends and foundation secured. The artwork is based on a story created by the children this summer, and it has a harvest theme. We asked for interactive aspects to the art, so the artist incorporated a four-square board into a sunflower, and a hopscotch board into an ear of corn. While painting, a woman in a car called Heeks-Heinlein over to ask what was going on. When Heeks-Heinlein told the woman, she smiled and said that she was very glad this was happening. A few weeks later, Heeks-Heinlein was taking photographs of this artwork. A parent from the school came over to say that her son helped paint the sidewalk, and that she and her son were very proud of his involvement with the project.

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

**Anecdotes/Other**

- Patrons expressed that they enjoyed the health and wellness fair and shared that more people need to be aware of these opportunities and information in the future. One of our patrons, Janice Thomas, did not know that the garden was open to the community to harvest. She picked some tomatoes and made fried green tomatoes. She called to let us know how delicious they were and that she looked forward to getting more. The harvest from the garden was good this year and lots of vegetables were enjoyed by the people of this community.

**Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting**

**Programs**

- We had great success with our “Cooking with Your Crockpot” program on September 17. Twenty-two people attended this 60-minute program. Instructor Liz Bauld was engaging, informative and the patrons loved her. She made 4 items: entrée, appetizer, dessert and side dish. She had plenty of samples for people to try. She was so popular that the group asked when she could come back for another program. (Pat Finnerty, the adult services librarian booked her for the end of January to do a class on “Cooking with Your Instant Pot,” which I think will be the new “hot” gift for 2018.

- Shibori Indigo Tie-Dye - Jean Slocombe found this program online and contacted Neda Defibaugh, a librarian at the Northeast branch of Virginia’s Charlottesville Public Library. Neda very graciously sent a full-page email to Slocombe outlining how she had set up her program, how well it went and how she will streamline the process for their next program. Her tips were logical and very useful. Still, this program required research in books and online. Many internet sites provided history, procedures and sensible suggestions.

- Some of our more involved programs have been made possible by generous grants of supplies by the Home Depot. Home Depot was again very helpful in providing many of the supplies we needed to put on the Shibori Indigo tie-dye program. Slocombe breathed a sigh of relief when she was able to pick out a heavy plastic drop cloth to cover the nearly new carpet on the community room floor. Try as they may
to be neat, the adults who attended still managed to get Indigo dye all over the drop cloth. Though meant for teens, only adults inquired about attending. The outcomes were beautiful. The participants asked how soon we would be repeating the program and wanted to attend our next program.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- Finnerty and I hosted a table at the North Winton Village Festival of the Arts. We gave away free Holds cards that are only valid at the Winton Branch Library. We also had pencils, tiny bubble stuff, and temporary tattoos for the kids. The festival was well attended; estimates are that about a thousand people were there. Sadly, they did not ALL stop at our table, but we did meet with many people to promote the Winton Library and talk about the exciting things happening at our branch. Joe Morelle stopped by for quite a long time to talk about the library’s place in the community. It was a great day!
- Jean Slocombe attended the Census Data and the American Factfinder Workshop that was presented by the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council on September 6. This workshop was detail oriented, providing information about census data and mapping in two sections. The first section talked about the different databases, such as the American Housing Survey (AHS), the Current Population Survey (CPS), and the American Community Survey (ACS), what kind of information they contain and how to search the databases. The second section discussed mapping census data and what to be especially aware of and how certain kinds of tables and maps may not be compatible with each other. One might be raw data whereas the other may be about percentages. This workshop is very useful, and time well spent.

Anecdotes/Other

- A man came into the library with a two-year old in a stroller. He had just moved here from NYC and he was in desperate need of a new stroller. (His current one was duct-taped together). Finnerty made several calls and found a local not for profit that was willing to donate him a new stroller. He was happy that the library was able to help him, and we have seen him in the library on a regular basis.
- Wolf was at the Circulation desk when a six-year-old child came in with his mom. He remembered Wolf sharing the magic coloring book the day the Happy Pirates did not show up and she had to entertain the crowd that was here. He said that his friend had a magic coloring book, and he had seen it. He told her all about the magic coloring book and that some pages were blank, and some had pictures. After she swore him to secrecy, Wolf showed him how the magic coloring book really works. She told him that it was a “trick,” but it was really science that makes it work. It was a very enjoyable conversation.
- A woman came in very excited because she had passed her Learner’s Permit test and was giving the Winton Branch Library all the credit. She is one of our regular customers, and she has been studying for this test for a long time using our computers. She said that she had been going through practice tests, and when she took the exam, she had run across every single question before. She was very proud of herself. We joked that the library should offer driving lessons, too.
Selected Meetings & Outputs, September 11 – October 12 (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 – Department 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
Rochester Regional Library Council Advisory Committee
FFRPL’s Davis, Lusignan & Fuss; RPL’s Harrison & Ridarsky regarding Rundel Terrace Project
Jaci Riordan, ESL Wealth Management
Christine Corrado, Parent Leadership Training Institute
Todd Oldham, MCC regarding possible collaboration on mobile services
Roc the Future Early Grade Reading Planning Team meeting (3)
Rochester City Council Committee Meeting
Kronos Training
NYLA PLS Conference Call
Rochard Reingold, WHEC
Anne Brown, Arnett Staff Member regarding role of Library Director
NYS Division of Library Development & Seymour Library Director regarding funding options for Seymour
Rochester Area Community Foundation Annual Philanthropy Luncheon
Genesee Country Village & Museum Collections and Board meeting
The Strong President Steve Dubnik and Library Director Beth Lathrop regarding future of Strong/MCLS/RPL collaboration
Finger Lakes Digital Inclusion Coalition Meeting
Roc the Future State of Our Children Planning meeting
FFRPL Board meeting
Vivian Palladoro and Patti Giordano, Memorial Art Gallery
Katherine May, Chief Performance Officer for City of Rochester
City of Rochester Educaiton Team meeting
Mayor Warren regarding Teaching Artists
City of Rochester Planning Committee regarding Branch Facilities Plan
Rochester Downtown Development Luncheon
MCLS Children’s Consultant Tonia Burton regarding NYLA program
MCLS/RPL Retirees Luncheon
City of Rochester Architectural Services regarding Rundel Terrace Project
RPL All Staff Day
Email Activity  
September 2018

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