FFRPL Report to MCLS & RPL Boards – August 2019

MONEY
Our 2018-19 Annual Campaign ended June 30th and surpassed our goal, raising a total of $242,593 from about 1900 people. Of those, about seven percent were new donors and more than 1/3rd were our Legacy Donors (givers of 10+ years), a group we will give special attention to this coming year, since the best indicator of future support is past support – and this group is also likely receptive to our Planned Giving message, to support the Library now and forever. Please note the 2019-20 Annual Campaign begins next month – check your mailboxes and thank you for supporting your beloved Central Library!

In great grant news, the past two months delivered four grants totaling $26,000 to support Library projects as varied as the Terrace Revitalization Project; Safe to be Smart support; fun furniture at Lyell Branch; a Girl Scout troop providing STEAM activities in the Central Library Children’s Center; a sensory tent which will circulate throughout MCLS to give kids on the autism spectrum a quiet safe place at public events; and a grant from the Konar Foundation to support the Festival to Go, part of the Rochester Children’s Book Festival which brings authors and free books to RCSD classrooms (FFRPL is the Festival’s fiscal agent). In total last year, FFRPL received 11 grants worth more than $166,000 for various Library projects.

All in, in FY2018-19, through donations, grants, bequests and gifts, FFRPL transferred about $650,000 to support the Library!

PROGRAMS/MARKETING and EVENTS
The Fall Books Sandwiched In series begins September 17th and is, as expected, wonderful – brochures are here and they’ll also be mailed to you with the September Annual Campaign letter. Also, the most recent RPL and FFRPL Annual Reports have been printed and you should have all received them at your homes – as always, it is inspiring to see all the ways the Library supports and enriches our community.

We are thrilled to announce a redesign and overhaul of our website FFRPL.org, with new pages and pictures covering the many ways FFRPL raises funds, presents programs, supports special projects, helps create specialized spaces, and purchases supplemental materials & equipment for the Rochester Public Library.

In the last two months, on behalf of the Library, we helped support and promote: Central Library’s Stonewall 50 Years Out exhibition and related programs; the new Crafting Democracy exhibit in Harold Hacker Hall; the Art of the Book call for entries, opening in December; the MCLS Summer Reading program, A Universe of Stories; and the NYS Parks Empire Pass program (FFRPL provided one pass to each MCLS library).

On September 18, FFRPL and the Staff Association will hold the annual Retirees’ Lunch, which this year is going to be a Retirees’ Early Bird Dinner – 4 to 5:30pm in Kusler-Cox Auditorium. Invites are in the mail.

Finally, Central Library will once again be a venue for the Rochester Fringe Festival next month – we’ll be running River to Roof Tours and Spooky Stories in the Stacks, plus three live bands will be performing in KGA (more details on our fancy website and in our aforementioned Fall Program brochure). Hope to see you there!