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Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building
October 21, 2024, 5:00 PM
Agenda

I.	**PUBLIC COMMENTS**	Corcoran	
II.	**ACTION ITEMS**		
1.	Minutes of prior meeting	Corcoran	page 3
2.	Claims	Hasselwander	page 7
3.	Literacy Rochester Professional Services Agreement	Hasselwander	page 9
4.	MCLS Document of Understanding 2025-2027	Uttaro	page 9
III.	**REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**		
1.	Liaison to Rochester Public Library Board	Stockman/Uttaro	
2.	Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council	Knapp	
3.	Staff Reports		
a.	Director's Report	Uttaro	page 9
b.	MCLS Services	Smathers	page 11
c.	Central Library Services	Clasper	page 18
IV.	**OTHER BUSINESS**		
V.	**ADJOURNMENT**		

Next Meeting:
Monday, November 18, 5:00 p.m.
Central Library, 115 South Avenue, 14620

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Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees
Welsh Room, Greece Public Library
September 16, 2024
Minutes

Trustees Present: Gary Brandt, Alinda Drury, Emily Hessney Lynch, Peter Knapp, Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly (quorum present)

Trustees Excused: Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Mack Smith, Jr., Suzanne Stockman

Trustees Unexcused: Erick Stephens

Staff and Guests: County Law Office Liaison, Keana Williams; FFRPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order
Ms. Hessney Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments
There were no members of the public wanting to address the board.

Meeting Minutes
The minutes from the August 19, 2024, meeting was APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Claims
Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2026-2031 Request
Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the action item with trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve the 2026-2031 County CIP Request. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation for NYS Library Construction Grant Funding
Ms. Smathers reviewed the action item with trustees and offered to answer questions.

Mr. Corcoran arrived at 5:06 p.m. and took the Chair's seat.

Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve the recommended allocations of library construction funds. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nominating Committee
Mr. Corcoran put forward his recommendations for the Nominating Committee. Ms. Moffitt MADE A MOTION to elect trustee Shelly as the chair of the Nominating Committee and trustees, Brandt, and Knapp as members. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison
On behalf of Ms. Stockman, Ms. Uttaro reported that the RPL Board approved the allocation of annual campaign proceeds from FFRPL, a patent agent professional services agreement, a website support professional services agreement, additional hours for the Monroe branch on a Sunday, a graphics package for the RPL mobile library, a construction grant, and a grant in aid of $12,000 from Senator Brouk.

In response to a question, Ms. Uttaro explained that the opening on the RPL board must be filled with someone who lives within the city limits. Furthermore, the board is looking for representation from the north quadrants of the city, someone with good financial expertise, and representation from the Latinx community.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison
Dr. Knapp reported that the RRLC Board has not met since his last report.

Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) Liaison
Ms. Borgus reviewed the highlights of her written report and offered to answer questions.

Member Director
Ms. Uttaro introduced the Director of the Greece Library, Cathy Henderson, and thanked her for hosting the meeting.

Ms. Henderson introduced two of her staff members who were attending the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Greece Library. She offered to provide a tour after the meeting and then gave a brief history of her 19 years at the Greece Library. She has been in the Director position for approximately 19 months. She spoke about the recent renovations, collection improvements, and some upcoming programs. She wrapped up by thanking the system staff for the support she has received as a new director.

MCLS Office
Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that September's National Library Card Sign-up Month features a Transformers theme and many member libraries contributed to a video being shared on social media.

Next, she shared that the Monroe County Library System is being featured in a rising member spotlight with the Visit Rochester group. Ms. Smathers will present to area businesses about what MCLS libraries offer and how they can partner with MCLS libraries.

Director's Report/Central Library
Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. Several trustees commented on programs or anecdotes they liked in the report.

Next, she reported that Ms. Clasper is making considerable progress implementing a new patron incident tracking system known as PITS. This will be an online system allowing staff to access information about patron incidents. It can be set up to allow different access depending on a user's information needs. It will be available across all Rochester Public Library locations and training will be rolled out soon.

Her next update was on the Digital Equity Project. Ms. Clasper, Ms. Smathers, Ms. Hasselwander, and Ms. Byrnes are making great progress in moving forward with submitting final budgets and beginning the hiring and purchasing processes. A space on the third floor of the Rundel Memorial Library Building is being vacated by

FFRPL to make space to store the one thousand new computers and the thousands of new Mifi units being ordered. This project is the most significant funding to the library from Monroe County in Ms. Uttaro's memory and she stressed the importance of the library delivering on the promises in the proposal with quality results. She further stated she has every reason to believe Ms. Byrnes as the project manager will do exactly that with guidance from Ms. Clasper and Ms. Smathers.

Next, she reported that the Rundel Construction project is moving forward. Much of the South Avenue and Court Street sides of the building are having scaffolding installed. As the project progresses, the scaffolding will move around the building. There are many precautions being taken to ensure the safety of the workers and the public. The scaffolding is secured to stop people from scaling it after hours. In additions, when the work moves to the riverside of the building, a small lifeboat will be kept on site. Some disturbances to staff will happen, especially when the work is being done on the windows. It is a large project and is anticipated to continue through 2026.

In response to a question, she reported that the planning committee for the Aqueduct Reimagined project has not met since early 2024.

She reported the City of Rochester has engaged a consultant to develop an arts and cultural plan for the city. The consultants will meet with Ms. Clasper and Ms. Lewis to understand the arts and culture offerings from the library.

Ms. Clasper is working with BJ Scanlon and Keana Williams to develop the legislation for the County Historian position. Hiring for the vacant position in the Local History and Genealogy division should be completed soon allowing Christine Ridarsky to turn her attention back to the County Historian work.

She then reported that Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director for the Community Libraries will be retiring at the end of the year. She is likely to use vacation time so her last day in the office will be the week before Thanksgiving. With Ms. Uttaro's own retirement coming in February, Ms. Clasper, Ms. Hasselwander, and Ms. Smathers will be leading the interview process to replace Ms. Lewis. In October, Nanci Nugent, supervisor of the Arts and Literature Division will also retire.

Lastly, Ms. Uttaro invited everyone to attend a visit from Congressman Joe Morelle at the Lincoln Branch library on Tuesday, October 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Other Business
None.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary

MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2024

MONTH	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
7	10	2000622684	11107509- B&H		$896.40	
7	31	2000625473	11101928-Fairport Public Library		$199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
7	31	2000625490	11105989- IRONDEQUOIT LIBRARY		$199.75	2024-25 LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
8	8	2000623838	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 INTERNET	$2,075.00	Jul-24
8	8	2000623838	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 DIGITAL TRANSMISSION	$16,291.06	Jul-24
9	10	2000626434	11100275-CDW		$5,164.90	SSD HARD DRIVE UPGRADES
9	10	2000626015	11103982- SHI INTERNATIONAL	PAESSLER PTG NETWORK MONITOR 3 YR SUBSC.	$1,504.30	
9	10	2000625490	11105989- IRONDEQUOIT LIBRARY		$14,903.10	LLSA 2024-25 90%
9	10	2000625559	11120051-New York State Parks	EMPIRE PASS RENEWAL- CENTRAL	$5.00	FIRST VOUCHER WAS $5 SHORT
9	12	2000626278	11101928- FAIRPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY		$11,407.50	LLSA 2024-25 90%
9	12	2000626327	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	$287.04	MULTIPLE EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOK
9	12	2000626327	11109903-OVERDRIVE	MATERIALS-HOLD	$3,345.69	MULTIPLE EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOK
9	12	2000626107	11111096- NYLA	MEMBERSHIP THROUGH 5/31/2025	$2,750.00	
9	12	2000626345	11116496- BLUE TOWER	VPS ANNUAL RENEWAL 11/1/24-10/31/25	$1,410.00	SPLIT 50/50 WITH RPL
9	12	2000626694	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 INTERNET	$2,075.00	
9	12	2000626694	11120635-CROWN CASTLE	2024 DIGITAL TRANSMISSION	$16,921.06	
9	13	2000626543	11102541-UNIQUE MANAGEMENT	2024 MATERIAL RECOVERY	$1,899.45	
9	17	2000626571	11104976-TRI DELTA RESOURCES	VMWARE VSPHERE FOUNDATION 8 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION	$7,232.00	
9	17	2000626349	11117594- TMOBILE	MIFIS	$22,392.24	PAST DUE BALANCES/MONTHLY CHARGES
9	18	2000625992	11102541-UNIQUE MANAGEMENT	2024 MATERIAL RECOVERY	$2,353.05	
9	25	2000626826	11103128- ROCHESTER REGIONAL LIBRARY COUNCIL	OCLC ACCESS 7/1/24-6/30/25	$3,750.00	
					$117,062.29	

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Patricia Uttaro, Director
Monroe County Library System
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TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: October 21, 2024
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–October 2024

Action Items

Literacy Rochester Professional Services Agreement (Hasselwander)
The MCLS currently partners with Literacy Rochester to provide Digital Literacy Navigators at various MCLS locations. From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, Literacy Rochester provided 2,708 hours of one-on-one computer assistance in 14 MCLS locations. As part of the Digital Equity Initiative project, MCLS will expand access to the Digital Literacy Navigator program to 6 additional member libraries across the system, providing up to 55 hours of services a week across the designated sites. Literacy Rochester will be paid $29 per hour of instruction. MCLS will purchase the equipment necessary for the program. The total amount of the contract will not exceed $78,000 in year 1 and $106,000 in year 2 with a term of November 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026.

Board Action Requested: Approve a professional services agreement with Literacy Rochester for an amount not to exceed $184,000 through December 31, 2026.

MCLS Document of Understanding 2025-2027 (Uttaro)
The MCLS Document of Understanding identifies the requirements and expectations of the Monroe County Library System and its 20 member libraries. The recommended DOU for 2025-2027 has been negotiated through a team consisting of Rhonda Rossman (Penfield), John Cohen (Ogden), Jennifer Erler-Perry (Gates), Lyla Grills (Mendon), Marjorie Shelly (MCLS Board), and Melanie Lewis, Emily Clasper, and Erin Clark representing RPL and Central. The DOU has been approved unanimously by the MCLS Directors Council and each member library board of trustees. There are no substantial changes to this document for the length of the agreement.

Board Action Requested: Approve the 2025-2027 MCLS Document of Understanding.

Report & Discussion Items
MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Banned Books Proclamation
MCLS received a proclamation from the County Legislation acknowledging Banned Books Week. Emily Clasper and I accepted the proclamation, cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of library supporters wearing “Free People Read Freely” t-shirts. There is a photo of the group in the County Office Building atrium floating around

somewhere, but we haven't been able to track it down. Here's a photo Fairport Librarian Anna Lippincott took of me holding the proclamation.

Brain Games Results

The MCLS team at the Literacy Rochester Brain Games was victorious for the second time, winning the coveted title and brain trophy by ONE point over 20 other teams! Thanks to Jim Byrne (Pittsford), Mark Hafer (Maplewood), Sarah Dennison (Henrietta), Jason Poole (Webster), Maren Kyle, (MCLS Outreach), Gabe & Maria Pellegrino (Central), and our own MCLS Trustee Gary Brandt for a very well-played game!

Exit Preparation

Much of my time is being spent preparing for the transition for a new Director. I have drafted an onboarding document for the new Director which includes a training plan, key information, and contact information for senior staff & supervisors. Each senior manager has been asked to review and add to the sections for their areas of responsibility. I will be adding a section on Trustees and will likely ask for input from some of our RPL and MCLS trustees. In addition, I've been working on cleaning up files and folders on the Directors Office network drive, moving files that must be kept due to SARA regulations, and deleting duplicates. Debi and I met recently with Nick Pembroke in LAS to discuss the most efficient way of maintaining long-term files and working files. Pembroke made some helpful suggestions. Finally, I am working on editing and cleaning up my Contacts file so the new Director will have easy access to important community contacts right away.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Library Card Sign Up Month was a rallying point for many September programs at member libraries. From outreach at parades and schools to contests for prizes, people were encouraged to become MCLS card holders. Greece Public Library even went so far as to request photographs of animals with MCLS cards. There were too many entries pick just one photo please follow this link to review them all: https://www.facebook.com/share/r/ABCo8kus8xVr4rFy/
The Transformers theme as shared from ALA inspired a collaborative video highlighting library collections that were more than meets the eye. https://www.facebook.com/share/v/2kqyEKf1c2rfpLje/

Brighton Memorial Library

Our gardens have been undergoing dramatic and much needed renovations the last 2 years. Many of the changes have been at the hands of our own Ms. Jennifer from our Circulation Staff. Today she's been busy trimming trees and planting some of the new plants which were purchased with a generous donation from the Brighton Garden Lovers Club. Thank you, Jennifer!

Gates Public Library

At our Ideas 'n' Authors meeting on Monday, September 9th, we had a special visit from a local author. Vivian Vande Velde, children's and teen author, made a special appearance to talk to our group about her books, writing process, and personal life. A wonderful time was had by all!

Greece Public Library

The "Love Your Library Celebration" on Saturday, Sept. 21 was a fantastic time. Staff enjoyed sharing everything the library has to offer patrons with bonus visiting with Pete the Cat and the therapy dogs. It was a great day and we are so happy for our new library card holders.

Henrietta Public Library

Henrietta held a brunch to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for their selfless work here at the library. We wouldn't be able to provide all the services to the community that we do without the help of these volunteers. Thank you all!

Mendon Public Library

After seeing the results from the amazing pumpkin book folding program, one patron enthused about our library programs being the best. Look how beautifully these books turned out!

Newman Riga Library

The celebratory reception for our first Churchville community art show was a success. Not only did we get to connect with members of our community and celebrate their art, we were able to enjoy music by the high school saxophone ensemble and the high school string ensemble, and some delicious food by Black Creek Deli. Many thanks to the Churchville-Chili Fine Arts Department faculty and staff, the talented students, Black Creek Deli, and everyone who came out to celebrate.

Ogden Farmers' Library

Patrons and staff alike were grateful to photographer and Spencerport native Joe Pompili for sharing his work with the library in September. You can learn more about Joe's work here: https://www.joepompiliphotography.com/

Parma Public Library

While the library doors were closed for renovations, the library focused on Banned Books Week to celebrate the Freedom to Read! Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. It is also one of the best avenues for broadening our perspectives, challenging our assumptions, and bettering ourselves as people. That's why, this week and always, your local library fights censorship and suppression in all its forms by guaranteeing you access to a variety of diverse materials and ideas.

Penfield Public Library

Thank you to everyone who came to the Friends of PPL's book sale. Thanks to you, the Friends of PPL can bring our patrons great programs, provide upkeep for the fish tank in the children's area, fund our infamous pop-ups, bring you new services like Select Reads, and help with special purchases like the new play kitchen and grocery toys in the children's room!

So, thank you all for being awesome library patrons, thank you to the Friends for their generosity to our library community, and last but not least, thank you to the marvelous Town of Penfield facilities crew that took on the painstaking task of assembling the new children's playthings! We could tell from all the sounds of screwdrivers and hammering that, left to our own devices, we the staff probably would've broken something.

Rush Public Library
We're Back! Slowly but surely, we are getting the children's books back on our shelves. Although we might not be fully stocked yet, we have plenty of toys to play with!

Seymour Library
A thank you as big as these trucks to everyone who participated in our very first Truck Rodeo! Families got to experience a variety of helper vehicles, big and small, and the people and jobs behind them! We love cooperating with other members of our community. We have a deep appreciation for all who helped make this event happen, including Town of Clarkson, NY Village of Brockport Town of Sweden Highway Department Brockport Police Department Northside Towing Brockport Fire District Brockport Central School District

MCLS Office Updates

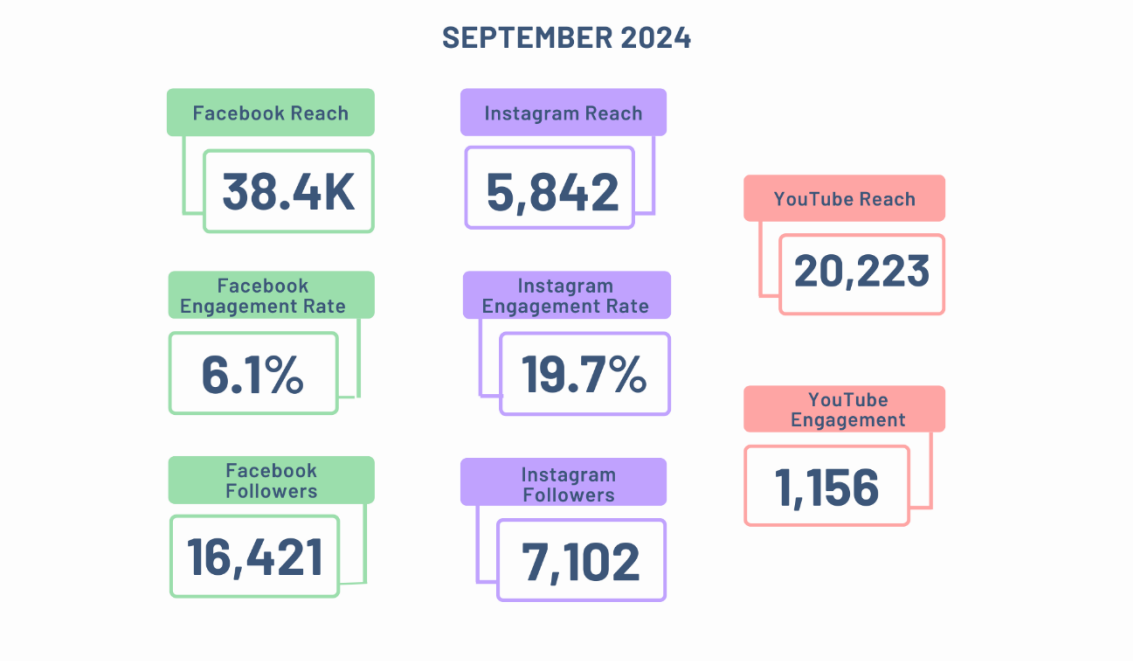
Jennifer Smathers reporting

September continued with submission of Construction Grant applications for the next round to the Division of Library Development, as well as early notice of the applications officially approved for funding by DASNY. The MCLS office is notified along with grant applicants and the appropriate state legislators so that we can prepare for them to announce the awarded grants via press releases in early October.

Events and Meetings
On September 4, 11, & 25 Alicia Gunther took the Books by Bike to Parcel 5 for the City's Mid-Day Bash. Books and library resources were handed out to promote Library Card Sign up Month. Four People registered for library cards.

On September 25, Gunther hosted an MCLS table at the Rochester Fall Fest at Parcel 5. Five people signed up for library cards and over 100 people engaged with staff at the library table.

Social Media



Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting

The Outreach Department tabled at the 2024 Veterans Stand Down event at the Rochester Public Market, along with over 100 other local employers and service providers, who together served over 300 veterans at the event. Library staff promoted the unique physical and digital collections and programming of MCLS member libraries, answered patron questions like "How do I get a library card" and "What about my old fines," distributed MCLS brochures, gave away books, and provided information about how to reduce barriers for veterans with an arrest and conviction history. Staff also made new connections with several veteran service providers for listing with the Making Moves Reentry Guide and outreach efforts.

In-Home Library Service

- Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 21 in-home patrons:
- 18 patrons received a home delivery of library materials (300 items total)
- 3 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (47 titles total)

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

- 11 library stations served
- 678 items distributed
- Special requests were filled for 8 sites

Corrections and Reentry Support

- Outreach staff fulfilled 6 requests for physical "Making Moves" reentry resource packets.
- "Making Moves" webpage received 61 total pageviews.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

- The Children's Center was pleased to host Miss Mariposa, who held two bilingual storytelling programs in September. These storytelling events were brought to the library from the Puerto Rican Festival Inc. of Rochester (PRF) and the Rochester Latino Theatre Company.
- For Playday on the Riverway, the Children's Center put out games, created a play themed scavenger hunt, and put out a craft for children.
- Nadia Morales had three Fall crafts where kids did a leaf rubbing activity; used Halloween-themed cookie cutters to cut out different fall shapes to make their own Fall garlands to hang in their homes; and used construction paper to make 3D tree trunks with forest animals peeking out of them.
- Katie Powell hosted a playtime for preschoolers with several sensory friendly activities, including playdoh emotions mats and sensory bins. She also included gross motor activities, like a balance beam, sit and spin, and a kiddie pool full of shredded paper.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton arranged a training for MCLS Children's Services staff titled We Don't Own the Music. It was presented by music therapist Missy Read; an Associate Clinical Professor in Music Therapy at Nazareth University and the manager of the on-campus Lipson Music Therapy Clinic. Reed also serves as the on- and off-campus clinical coordinator.
- Burton and Chelsea Arnold attended the Association for Library Service to Children's National Institute in Denver. They attended two full days of conference sessions on a wide variety of topics including the Science of Reading, program evaluation, and supporting developing readers. They are both serving on the planning committee for the 2026 National Institute, which will take place in Buffalo.

Anecdotes/Other

- Nadia Morales, who has been with the library for six years starting as a summer youth worker, is now a library assistant for the Children's Center.
- To better serve our bilingual families, which currently make up 41% of the Rochester city School District, we are entering into an agreement with Ibero for translation services. By November all materials for the Children's Center and Raising A Reader will be bilingual. Katy Hasselwander from Finance is assisting Burton with the process.
- Our partnership with Father Tracy Advocacy Center continues to be helpful. Even when staffing shortages prevent someone from physically coming to the library, staff are able to get patrons to the Center in order to assist them. Homelessness continues to be an issue. In September one patron had been turned away from the Department of Human Services several times, being told to call the After-Hours numbers to find a bed but when they do, there are no beds available. There have been shelters that have had to close due to lack of funding, staff at Father Tracy are concerned that once the cold comes the problem will escalate.
- This partnership is intended to assist families, but all are welcome. Other divisions send patrons down to Children's for assistance, including teens. This month a 19-year-old who was deaf and homeless came for help. Since the teen is 19, they were not able to be helped by Center For Youth, they only place teens up to age 17 in their shelter. Since the patron is deaf, staff were unsure that After- Hours would be able to assist over the phone so Father Tracy staff put them in a motel room for the evening. This is just one of the many situations that takes a lot of time, one visit to the library is not enough time to meet all the challenges.

Raising A Reader

- Olivia Cutter began in her role of Early Learning Specialist. She was a classroom teacher, which brings a valuable prospective to the team.
- Burton attended Open House for the Rochester City School District Early Childhood School. This was a great way to introduce the program to parents and teachers. Burton also connected with the Director of Office of Parent Engagement for the city school district. There were a couple of families who participated in the program at previous childcare sites and were excited to learn they can still be a part of the program.
- Connections to new sites are in process. We currently have the following sites committed:
    - Generations Clinton Square
    - Generations St. John's/Highland
    - Ibero
    - RCSD Early Childhood School
    - RCSD School #54
- We also have two sites we have served int he past who are interested in participating again: Rochester Childfirst Network (RCN) and VOA.

Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- The Central Library held a Community Resource Expo to showcase the many local agencies RPL partners with to bring services to our patrons. Organized by the amazing Cynthis Dana, the event featured more than twenty government and nonprofit organizations who currently work collaboratively with RPL. The first hour of the event was open to library staff during Central's "Third Thursday" staff meeting and development time. When the library opened at noon, patrons were welcomed in to learn more about these fantastic resources. Staff feedback was universally positive, with many people commenting on how much they learned about what we were already doing! According to one staff member, "We always forget how many services work with us and are present in the library. It was so great to get a reminder so we can direct patrons to these folks if they need their help." Several representatives of the organizations present expressed their thanks for the opportunity not only to connect with library staff and patrons, but also for the chance to connect with one another. One of the people tabling told us "It is so important that we all have chances to meet each other and remember that we are all on the same team." We are hopeful that this is an event we can sponsor regularly.
- EAP Counselor Dr. Remi was present at the Community Resource Expo to introduce himself to staff and encourage them to reach out and take advantage of his services. Dr. Remi will be in the Central Library and available to staff on the "Third Thursday" mornings in October and November.

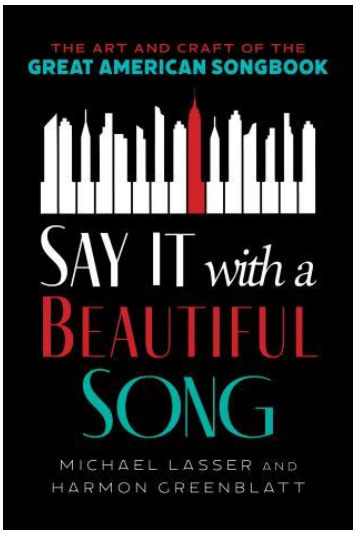
- The Art of the Book & Paper opened its 13th annual exhibition in the Rundel Library on August 20th in conjunction with the Rochester Fringe Festival. A reception and an awards presentation was held on September 18th. The exhibit, which features stunning compositions from across the globe, will run until November 30th.
- A team of RPL Staff led by Emily Clasper has been hard at work setting up, configuring, and testing the new Patron Incident Tracking System (PITS) planned to launch for all of RPL in October. This system will allow staff across all branches to efficiently report and track security incidents and will offer greatly enhanced communication regarding these incidents and their resolution. Training for all staff will occur in October, with a tentative launch date set for the end of the month.
- Emily Clasper and Amy Discenza helped facilitate the first of four Community Input Sessions for the City's Opioid Team. This open meeting was held at St. Michael's Church, where community members were asked to provide feedback and observations in several topic areas surrounding Opioid use and impacts in their neighborhood. Clasper and Discenza facilities the Overdose Prevention conversation, gathering input on what community members see as working to alleviate overdoses and what they would like to see more of. The conversation was highly emotional and was a great help in providing insight on the impacts of Opioids in our community. The information yielded from this and the three additional sessions planned in the coming months will be used to help determine how funds from Opioid settlements will be used to tackle this problem throughout the area.

- Emily Clasper met with the new Memorial Art Gallery Director Sarah Jesse and MAG Director of Academic & Community Programs Allison Goodwin, taking them for a tour of the Central Library and discussing opportunities for future collaboration. Our MAG colleagues were very happy with the outcomes they have seen from their participation in the library VIP Pass program, and were delighted to see that all of the MAG passes at Central were currently checked out. The group discussed future possibilities for creating a RPL micro branch at the MAG, hosting museum tours for library staff and patrons, and organizing educational opportunities sponsored by the MAG at the library. Jesse and Goodwin were impressed by the breadth of services offered at the Central Library, at one point stopping to ask, "Is there anything the library doesn't do?" They left determined to find a way to create a Secret Room at the MAG.

- Frederick Douglass has taken up residence on the second floor of the Rundel Building! Last year, the City acquired ten of the statues that had previously been scattered throughout the City and restored them from the damage they had suffered being outside. One of these statues has now been permanently installed in the Library, taking prominent place , just outside the Local History and Genealogy Division.

Arts/Literature, Don Hyatt and Nanci Nugent reporting

<u>Programs</u>



- Local author Michael Lasser began his 'Say It with a Beautiful Song' series beginning with 'The Art and Craft of the Great American Songbook' via Zoom. Lasser had a wide-reaching perspective and history to present on this subject. Lasser's recent book informed this presentation and accompaniment with musical performances of the era, 1920-1950, the height of the American songbook. This era has classics that remain popular today due to their timeless lyrics and craft in performances of these songs. The depth of the songs was explored in the breakdown of the lyrics of the songs such as 'Love is here to stay' and 'Let's call the whole thing off.' Using recordings from the era, the audience was able to then see the visual aspects of the era, notably the performance in the video shown for 'Let's call the whole thing off' which was a musical number then followed by a synchronistic performance of the singers, giving a depth to the craft of this era. Lasser finished the program with questions and spoke about the process of writing of the book and left the audience with the fact that there will probably never be an era in American music to surpass the 'American Songbook era.' Due to musical copyright, this program was recorded but is unable to be posted online but will remain as a resource for the public to come view in person. This series continues the rest of the year with a once-a-month program, all are via Zoom.

- Patrons created Halloween-themed egg ornaments using a special electric tool to create detailed drawn on designs. Egg artist Mia Sohn taught students to create the design and then apply dyes to the eggs to add color and interest. This class taught students how to be creative with simple tools and brought community members together to learn a skill that many of them could not afford to do on their own. Students remarked how fun the class was and one said they did not know about this craft.
- Patrons created personalized greeting cards with artist Stephanie Kelly. Kelly instructed patrons to create standout artwork to customize their greeting cards. These cards were made with collages of fabric and origami paper and with stitching and buttons. All students said this was a fun class and praised the teacher. Some remarks were, "We LOVED this class and the teacher," another said, "this collage cards program was quite possibly the best library program I've been. Stephanie was a fantastic teacher."

- Dr. Martin Pracher presented a lecture on Art, Forgeries and Forgers. Dr. Pracher is a German art expert witness and lecturer for technical art history and preventive conservation at the University of Würzburg – one of Rochester's Sister Cities. He was also an exchange student in Rochester 35 years ago! The lecture explored the complexities of art forgery, noting that not every fake work of art is a forgery, and not every genuine work of art is authentic. False attributions, misinterpretations, or carelessness can assign false characteristics to a work of art. During the lecture, patrons also learned about the also learned about Rochester's Sister Cities program. One patron commented, "He was a wonderful speaker and I learned so much about the world of art forgery." Another thanked staff for having such a wonderful program with a well-known knowledgeable person in the world of forgeries.

- Patrons celebrated the change of season by creating Fall or Halloween-themed dream catchers. One student said, "*I love learning new things here at the Central Library and I have fun*" and another remarked, "*these classes are great because we make new friends and get to speak with others about art*."
- In the Creating Art for the Soul and Recovery workshop, Rachel Ortiz showed students how creating art can make a person feel good and bring positivity to their lives. This class is part of a series of classes that focus on how being creative can help us and others feel better. This class focused on how art can be a medium in the recovery process. In recovery, a person goes through phases and one of those phases is called the "pink cloud", this is when you start feeling physically good. Ortiz asked all the students what makes them feel good and helped them create representations of that feeling. One patron said, "*thank you for having these art programs where we can be creative and meet others who want the same*."

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

<u>Outreach and Training</u>

- Jennifer Byrnes presented to this year's cohort of startups for the MARL (mobility, AI, robotics, logistics) accelerator located in Silicon Valley.
- Byrnes was a panelist for the American Library Association's Thinking Money discussion around children and financial literacy.
- Melissa Cobo tabled at M&T Bank's Women's Small Business Spotlight and presented at the Small Business Development Center's Business FastTrack Program
- Byrnes and Lily Anthony attended a training for the Thinking Money for Kids grant the division received from the American Library Association. The grant provides a program kit with multiple games and other materials to allow for creative and engaging financial literacy programs for kids.

<u>Consulting</u>

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching:
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
    - In person: 6
    - Email: 23
    - Mail: 0
    - Phone: 3
    - Zoom: 2
- 3D Printer: 10
- Webpage views: 34
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 12
- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 0
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 0

Database Usage Statistics (April)

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 7 Value: $24,650
- IBISWorld: Page views: 74 Value: $40,845
- InnovationQ: Logins: 22 Searches: 74
- Mintel: Sessions: 44 Page Views: 25 Downloads: 82
- PitchBook: Logins: 25
- Statista: Page views: 39 Downloads: 8

Anecdotes

- Connected Communities asked BIC to serve on their new Economic Empowerment Committee to help guide economic empowerment in the Beechwood and EMMA neighborhoods. Byrnes will serve, with Cobo attending if Byrnes is unavailable.
- Lily Anthony did extensive patent research for Greater Rochester Enterprise that resulted in this article: https://www.rochesterfirst.com/why-roc/why-roc-top-five-patent-producing-major-metro-rankings/

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 2
- New Borrowers- 274
- RRLC Access Cards Issued- 9
- Notarial Acts- 176

Anecdotes

Rich Mangione had the funkiest question in Circulation this month. A patron came to the desk and asked who wrote the 1970s funk hit "Chase Me" and what are the top three songs by the Bar-Kays. Mangione discovered that the answers were The Con Funk Shun Band and "Let's Have Some Fun", "Move Your Boogie Body", and "Too Hot to Stop".

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The Local History & Genealogy Division's walking tours continue to be popular. Dan Cody led 54 people on a tour of the Rochester Heritage Trail this month. The one mile walk along Broad, Exchange, West Main, and Fitzhugh streets included 11 historically significant buildings, landmarks, and/or locations.
- The Family Finders genealogy club held its first meeting of the 2024-25 season in partnership with the Rochester Genealogical Society. The group meets on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 am in the Local History & Genealogy Division.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Christine Ridarsky attended the annual meeting of the Association of Public Historians of New York State in Port Jefferson, NY, where she networked with government-appointed historians from across New York and attended sessions on a variety of topics. Ridarsky serves as president of the statewide organization.
- Emily Morry was featured in an article about Rochester's Inner Loop by RIT student AJ Bonacci. Bonacci had interviewed Morry in March after reading her Local History ROCs blog series on the topic. You can read

Bonacci's article here: https://commjournalismwebt.wixsite.com/home/news/inner-loop%3A-how-a-highway-can-change-the-identity-of-a-city.

- Brandon Fess attended the first session of AI, Archives and Museums, entitled "AI 101 for Archives and Museums" at the Rochester Institute of Technology. This was the first of four sessions that will be held over the next nine months. It was a helpful introduction to basic artificial intelligence concepts and AI might be used in libraries.

Digital Projects

- The division published two articles in the Local History ROCs! blog in September: "The Crowd Went Wild: The Origins of Aquinas Stadium," written by Dan Cody, and "Cómo Te Llamas?: Latinx Namesakes in Rochester's Landscape," written by Emily Morry, who also edits the blog. The two posts received a total of 76 views in September. In addition, readers from 12 countries revisited 208 previously published posts for a total of 2,790 blog views in September. All blog posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

- The FamilySearch scanning team, having finished scanning yearbooks in August, began working on monographs. The complexity of this material means that the process takes longer than it did for yearbooks. Ten (10) books were scanned in September:
    - The Mayflower and Her Log, 1620-1621
    - Ames Family, 1520-1969; Concerning Genealogies
    - Allen Kin by C. L. Allen
    - A Chronicle of Auburn, NY
    - Foster, Ford, Sampson and Allied Families
    - Descendants of Nicholas Cady
    - Ancient Landmarks of Montgomery
    - History of the State of RI and Providence Plantations, 1636-1790 (Vol. 1)
    - The Rise and Decline of Men's Clothing Industry in Rochester, NY
- Fess shipped microfilm of three newspapers to NYS Historic Newspapers for imaging in September. These include the earliest issues of the Daily Democrat, which will comprise the primary newspaper project for this fiscal year funded by the library. Also sent were the Jewish Tidings and the Jewish Ledger, imaging of which is funded through a partnership with University of Rochester Hillel.

Special Collections

Fess accessioned 21 new collections in August, mostly small groups of material that were identified during the accessioning cleanup project completed earlier this year.

Anecdotes

A patron contacted the Local History & Genealogy Division wanting to know the address of the Steam Gauge and Lantern Works, which was destroyed by fire in 1889. This turned out to be a complicated question, as many writers on the topic have confused the business with the building that replaced it after the fire. After some sleuthing, Brandon Fess was able to determine that the building that housed the Steam Gauge and Lantern

Works (2 Center Street) was owned by William Gorsline, and the modern Gorsline building at High Falls was built on almost the same footprint. However, the address was slightly different. When the Steam Gauge and Lantern Works burned, an attached structure at 4 Center Street--home to the Rochester Folding Box Company--survived and was integrated into the replacement building. This secondary structure has been removed, but the newer building retains its older address, thus leading to the confusion that so many writers seem to have fallen into.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

RMC handled 892 reference questions and 224 non-reference transactions for a total of 1016.

Programs

- First Friday film: *Aftersun*
- September Movie Matinee films: *Inside Out 2*
- September Concerts:
    - Fatime
    - Amanda Ashley
- Brown Bag Book Discussion: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
- A/V set ups for programs in Central Library: 28
- Programs Streamed for FFRPL: 3

Anecdotes

While RMC had been adding a few more Mi-Fi units and changing hold rules to allow holds to travel to all MCLS libraries, the holds have continued to increase. As of this writing, there are 500 holds on the Mi-Fi units. Patrons have told us that the school district's elimination of internet access help is likely the reason for the continued interest in our units. We are so glad that we will be adding more units to this collection soon!

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

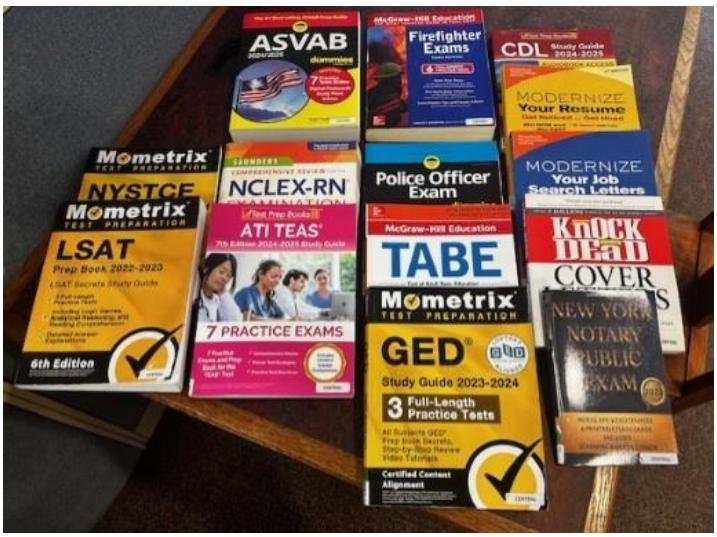
Programs

Postcards from Madagascar, a Zoom program, was presented by travel writer and historian David Mould, who has hosted several other free travelogues for the Library for the past few years. About 13 people were in attendance, including one watching from China and one from Russia! The program covered not only the current state of affairs in Madagascar, but also history, traditions, and culture, including the ubiquitous use of rebuilt 1970s French cars throughout the country. David shared his personal experiences and photographs from his various visits to Madagascar. There were many questions asked and everyone enjoyed the presentation. Gabriel Pellegrino later received a call from a patron about the program as she missed it and she was informed that the program was recorded, and he would contact her when it is posted on the Library's YouTube Channel.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors continued to be busy with about 60 people seen. In addition, Pellegrino handled one LROC referral through the UniteUs platform, connecting the individual with needed help. Pellegrino was pleased to see that so many of the Science Division's community partners including those from LROC and Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY) saw were present at the September 19 Community Expo event at the Central Library.

- Pellegrino attended the monthly UR Wilmot Cancer Community Action Council (CCAC) meeting. There will be a retreat in October at which Pellegrino will be part of a panel discussion. He was also nominated to serve in a leadership position for one of the subgroups.
- Renee Kendrot met with Holly Hammond from Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL), spending about 90 minutes, explaining the organization of the Job Information Center (JIC) collections, including careers, resume writing and cover letters, and test preparation books for various exams including GED, SAT, GRE, NCLEX and TEAS (nursing exams), LSAT, TABE and civil service, as well as materials printed and posted in JIC. Kendrot also explained the process through which Civil Service study guides and materials are lent to patrons. She and Florence Morris are experts at choosing the correct materials for the library patrons. Reference for Civil Service exams is more than simply finding books that match the title of the exam: for each position advertised, an analysis is done of the duties listed for each position and the specific scopes of the examination. For a typical exam, a patron might be given one main study book and 3-5 separate scope-focused study booklets. The Division maintains an index of these scopes for cross-referencing with appropriate test titles, which is especially helpful when there is no definitive published guide for a particular examination. The Division clerks also assist in maintaining the JIC collection. Alaikia Miller shares all the job announcements that come through email from the City of Rochester and other outlets. These are printed and put out on the tables in JIC. Matt Sherman keeps all the Civil Service materials, announcements, and indexes up to date. In addition to strictly-JIC materials, regular and commercial driver's manuals in English and Spanish, are made available to patrons at no cost. These are provided through the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and the supply maintained by Kendrot.



<u>Anecdotes</u>

Alaikia Miller worked with Grupo Cultural Latinos to construct a stunning exhibit in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Several cases have been filled with festive cultural artifacts, ornament, and apparel. There is even a Moai standing by, alongside various national flags. The Division's skeleton welcome mascot is also dressed in celebration. This exhibit will continue until at least Mid-October, possibly extending into November to celebrate Día de los Muertos. The eclipse sculpture created by Miller was rotated to have its sun side facing, which added greatly to the bright display.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Programs

- Trevor Johnson has been providing a Zoom class that helps elderly patrons use the computer. During the most recent class, two patrons came in person in addition to the anticipated online audience. They learned how to use the sharelink feature in email, how to navigate application settings on their phone, and to use the internet language features on their tablet. This program also provided Johnson with the opportunity to introduce the in-person patrons to the Foodlink Café and give them a general tour of the tech center and its resources.
- During the month of September, Ginger Brewer continued to teach the Computer Tutor program at the Central Library. Brewer works one on one with individuals who need to build their confidence and understanding with using technology. In addition, Brewer and Digital Literacy of Rochester have worked together to add computer programs to the library calendar. The Tech staff have also provided patrons with various do it yourself resources where they are able to utilize apps centered around computer navigation and terminology. Patrons have increasingly shown interest when it comes to having more computer programs available and are thankful the library offers such programs to the public. The Technology Center staff have responded to that appetite and have developed a more aggressive programming schedule for the fall.

Outreach and Training

- Trevor Johnson worked with Extension to set up a meeting with the manager at the R.L Edwards elderly home. He met with manager Sheona Edwards and a colleague, and they agreed to let us show patrons how to use tablets and phones with a key point being removing or limiting scam calls.

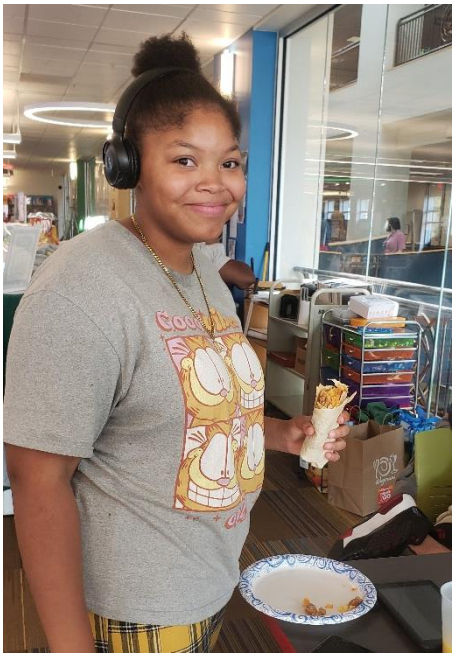
- Cy Shropshire has provided technology support and instruction at the Lifespan Wolk Café at Sibley Square. This has been a very popular service with the elderly population there and we anticipate Cy will be providing services at the Wolk Cafe through the fall at least. Cy and Trevor will both be involved in more programming in collaboration with the Extension Department as this in program grows to include new venues and populations.

Anecdotes

One of the Technology Center's most recent hires, Jonathan Hammond, continues to make an impact on the staff and patrons of the Technology Center. He consistently fills his essential role in the library's Technology Center, providing daily support to patrons in connecting them with various resources and employment opportunities. his appreciation for Hammond's assistance, noting how helpful and instrumental Hammond had been in his search for employment. Additionally, another patron, personally wrote a card to Hammond, stating, "Jonathan, I so appreciate all of your patience and hard work with me. There's no way I can't win. Thanks!" With Hammond's resume and job application assistance she was able to secure an interview with a prospective employer who stated that they liked her resume.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

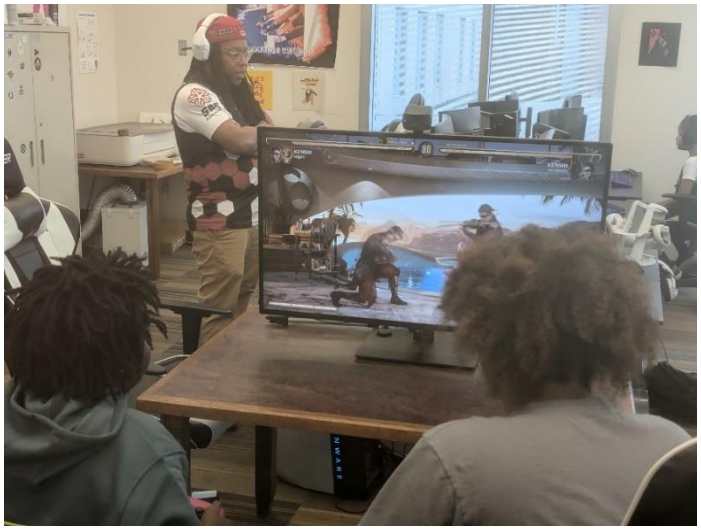


- Microwave Breakfast Burritos cooking program: Teens assisted Courtney Withey in preparing an easy, economical, and efficient meal they can replicate at home. They fried bacon, turkey sausage, scrambled eggs on the flat top griddle before assembling burritos to meld ingredients in the microwave. Most importantly they learned how to properly wrap a burrito without losing all the goodies when you take a bite! Through this program, Teens learned how to properly use and clean kitchen equipment, understand calorie and nutrition information from food labels, and food safety. Participants enjoyed cooking together and teasing each other about preferred condiment choices.
- FAFSA Fest 2024: Local volunteers, including financial aid counselors from local colleges, came together to assist parents and students with Free Application for Federal State Aid online, answer financial aid questions, and provide individual counseling for understanding college costs. Food and refreshments were provided. Participants thanked the volunteers for de-mystifying the application and making the experience user friendly. FAFSA fest provided the perfect partnership of FREE services provided to the community. Families were able to come to a safe, public place for the assistance needed to complete major paperwork. Other family members were able to engage with Teen Center staff and enjoy the space's amenities while their loved ones took care of business.
- Cultural Competency BINGO: Teens came together to see who had the most knowledge of current and past celebrities. BINGO cards carried descriptions of popular trends, fashion creators, music, and entertainment providers that they competed to correctly identify the people and create the BINGO line. They enjoyed it so much that we played the second round, increasing difficulty level by requiring coverage of a full BINGO card in order to win the round. The round ended in a tie and both winners were awarded all day bus passes.

- The AI Comic Lab program started this month. The "Liberating Individuals Through Literary Text" group brought five pre-teens to participate. These are kids that struggle with literacy and wanted to utilize visual literacy in the AI Comic Lab as a learning experience. One participant was an 11-year-old girl with autism. Her mother talked about how her daughter is usually in her own little world, but during this experience she got to present her world to her mother. She was able to show the things going on in her head and finally share it with her mother visually.

- Central Library entered the NASEF Mario Kart World Time Trials this month. Each room on the 2nd floor was given a racing wheel which vastly increased engagement with the Nintendo switch. Members of the Central Library Liberators Esports Team participated in the World Time Trials. There are over 350 entrants from 8 different countries and a member of the Liberators, Victor, placed 3rd in the world during the first week trial. During the Liberator meeting to celebrate 3rd place, we recorded a 3rd place time for the second week racetrack. This program has garnered interest from nearly every child that comes to the 2nd floor of the library. A 3rd place finish in week one of the time trials has inspired and encouraged other kids in the library to participate in the World Time Trials.

- The Esports Fight Club began this month. This month the 585Fighterz hosted a Mortal Kombat 1 tournament with a stream giveaway. One stream viewer won a pair of headphones. This program brought both live and online engagement. 585Fighterz teach kids about both streaming and gaming. There was a training day earlier in the month for potential participants.



<u>Anecdotes</u>

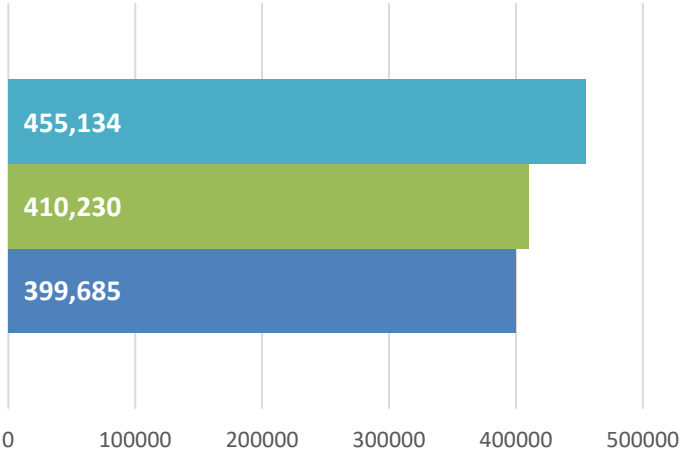
Teen Central congratulates this teen for graduating from All City High School. He is a regular at Teen Central, a young man who has experienced traumas, family loss, and homelessness. Through his struggles he has always carried himself in a positive way, treated everyone with respect, and continues to be helpful to everyone. We at Teen Central are dedicated to continuing to help this young man succeed in his goals and achievements. In his own words, "*Mr. J* [John Hylton] *is a mentor, inspiration, and family. He has guided me through some tough times, and I would take a bullet for him*."

Town Libraries				
	Sep-24	**Sep-23**	**+/-**	**%**
Brighton	49,207	39,491	9,716	24.6%
Seymour	12,231	10,222	2,009	19.7%
Chili	20,360	15,540	4,820	31.0%
East Rochester	3,957	3,086	871	28.2%
Fairport	54,487	44,924	9,563	21.3%
Gates	20,960	18,011	2,949	16.4%
Greece	50,156	39,448	10,708	27.1%
Hamlin	4,817	3,947	870	22.0%
Henrietta	41,295	33,062	8,233	24.9%
Irondequoit	40,370	30,376	9,994	32.9%
Mendon	9,959	6,883	3,076	44.7%
Newman Riga	2,033	1,653	380	23.0%
Ogden	11,671	9,376	2,295	24.5%
Parma	7,699	6,467	1,232	19.1%
Penfield	37,451	30,497	6,954	22.8%
Pittsford	48,051	40,516	7,535	18.6%
Rush	2,210	2,564	(354)	-13.8%
Mumford	665	654	11	1.7%
Scottsville	2,733	2,273	460	20.2%
Webster	40,245	32,555	7,690	23.6%
Towns Subtotal	*460,557*	*371,545*	*89,012*	24.0%
RPL Subtotal	*76,141*	*64,890*	*11,251*	17.3%
MCLS Total	**536,698**	**436,435**	**100,263**	**23.0%**

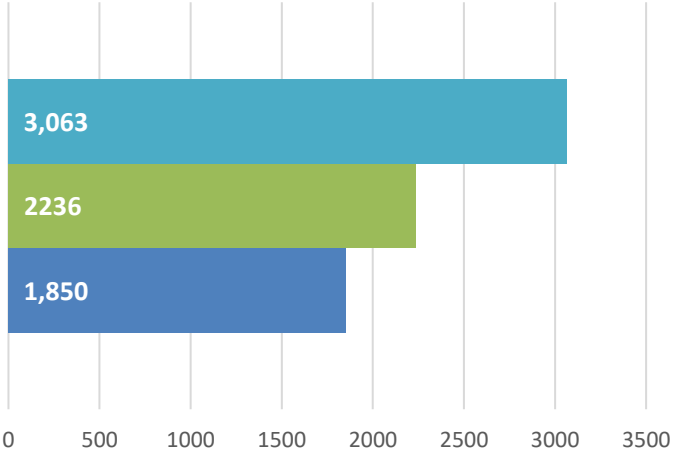
RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan—Sept

2024 2023 2022

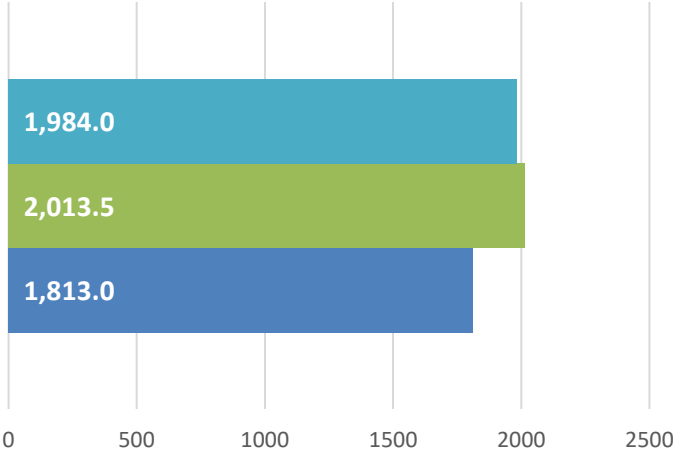
CIRCULATION



LIBRARY CARDS

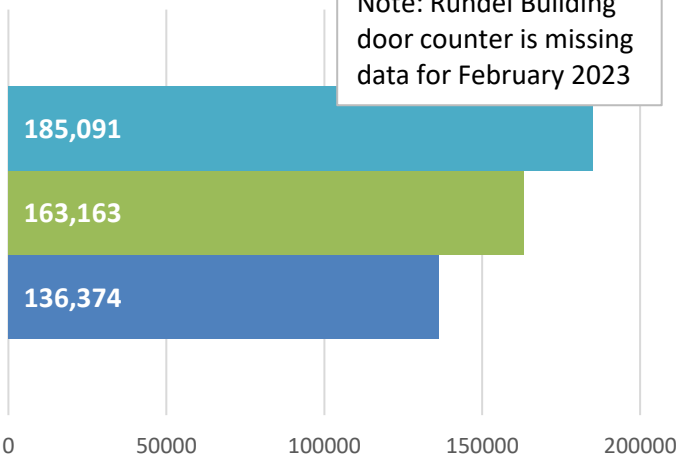


SERVICE HOURS

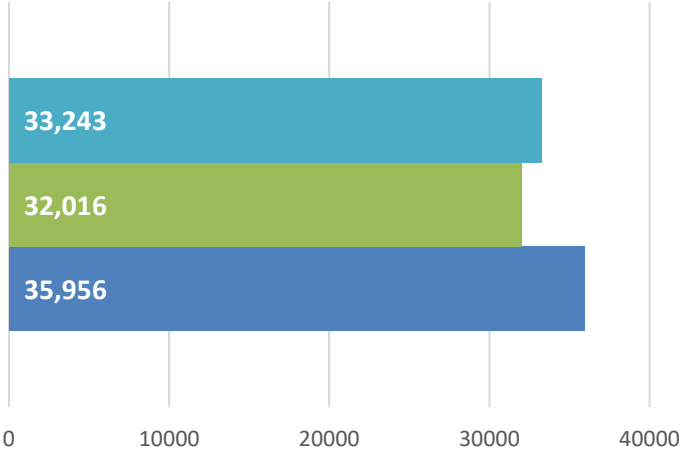


VISITS

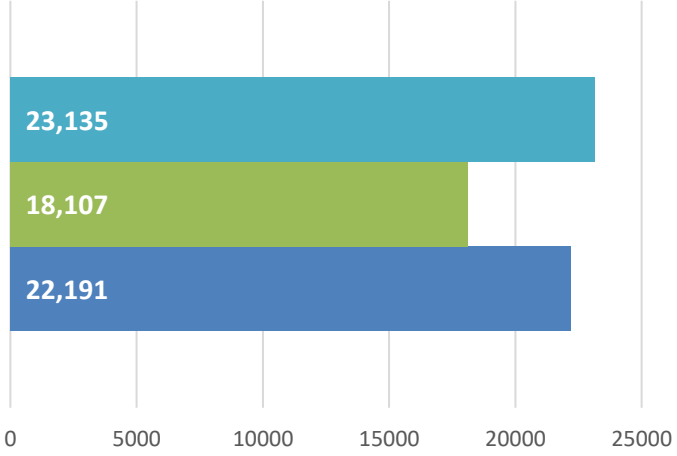
Note: Rundel Building door counter is missing data for February 2023



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



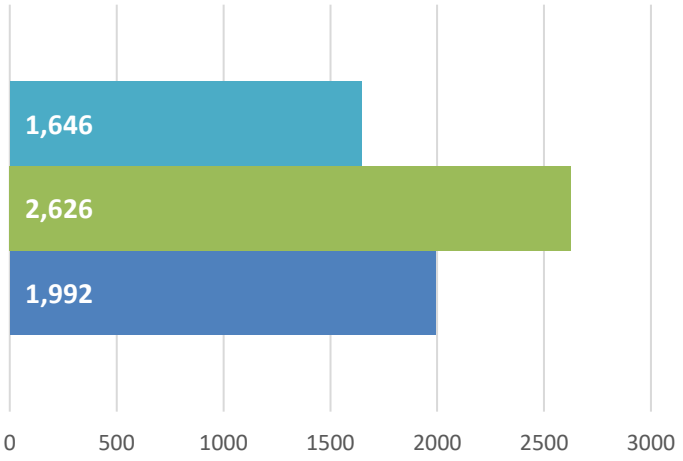
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan—Sept

2024 2023 2022

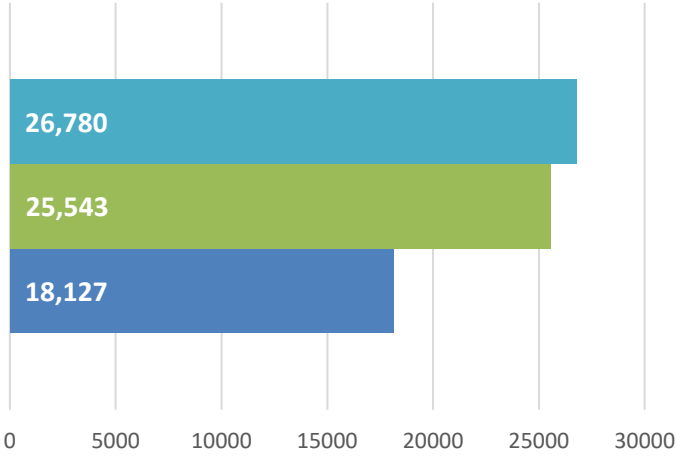
NOTARY



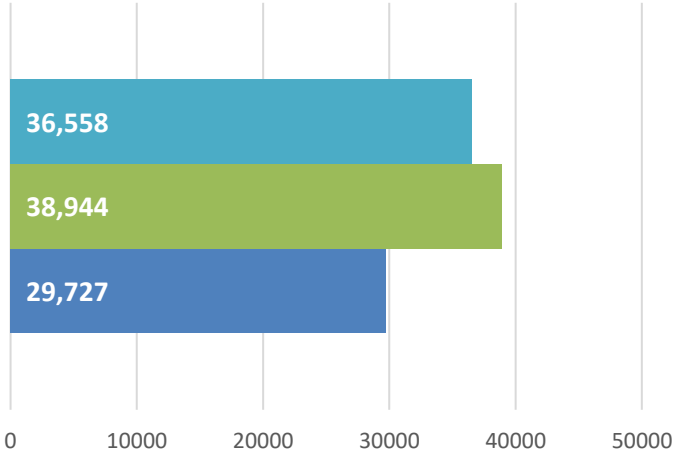
DEFINITIONS

Circulation: Includes the circulation of all library materials both over the desk and virtual/e-content.
Library Cards: New patron registrations. Excludes renewals.
Service Hours: Hours the library is open to the public.
Visits: Door count of persons entering the library.
Reference Questions: Questions requiring staff to recommend, interpret, evaluate, instruct, etc.
Non-reference: Directional questions. E.g., What are the hours? Where is___?
Notary: Notary Public acts. Each signature counts as one act.
Computer Hours: Hours patrons used the public PCs.
WiFi Uses: Number of log-ins to the public WiFi.
Group Programs: In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.
Program Attendance: Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes staff and presenters.

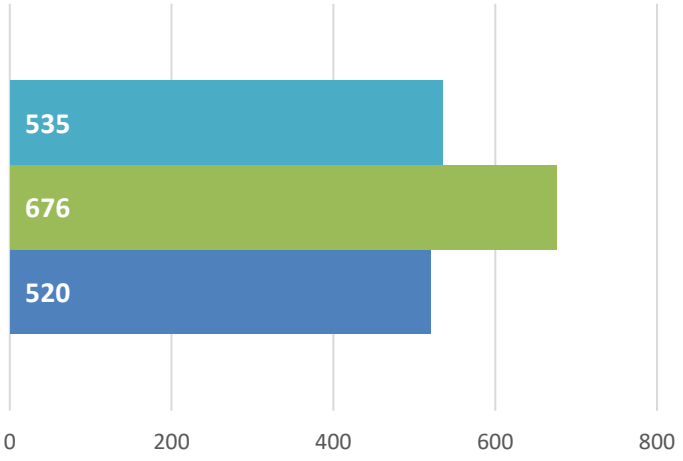
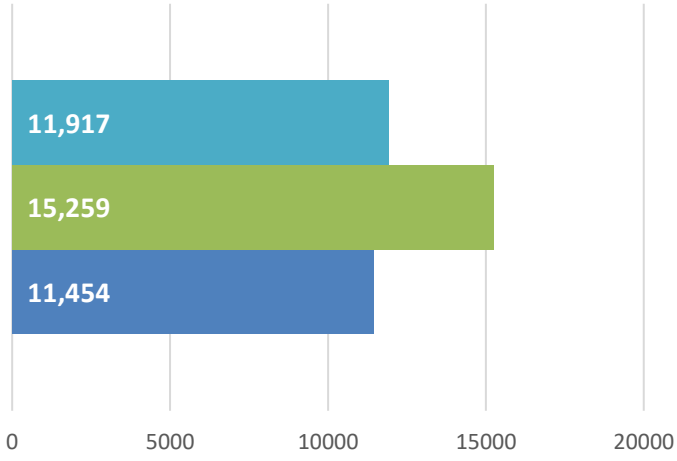
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE