



Rochester
Public Library
More Than You Think



Monroe County
Library System
www.libraryweb.org

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604
Patricia Uttaro, Director | 585-428-8045 | Patricia.Uttaro@libraryweb.org

TO: MCLS & RPL Boards of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: February 19, 2020
SUBJECT: Joint Monthly Report – February 2020

Joint Action Items

Proposed FY21 Central Library Budget (Uttaro)

For the FY2020-21 fiscal year the Central Library faced an approximate \$150,000 gap, based on a loss in revenue and wage/salary increases (contractual cost-of-living adjustments and NYS minimum wage law). Benefit costs were roughly flat this year.

The gap was closed through new positions on revenue receipts, including a proposal for a 1.5% increase to be requested from Monroe County for Central Library support (\$103,000) and inflationary increases in System Services revenues (\$76,200) are based on the increased share of MCLS Office staff activities and a new shared position for technology training.

For remaining revenues, we are continuing to decrease fine and fee revenue based on collection trends and policies, and State Aid is projected as flat based on projections from engagement with our state delegation, as compared to the Governor's proposed 5% reduction. The elimination of several proposed vacancies and several new conversions of part-time to full-time staffing results in an increase of 1.25 FTE positions.

Based on 2019 MCLS expenses under budgeted allocations, the projected MCLS fund balance is approximately \$325,691, pending final County year-end close. This is also the available balance, as no current funds are encumbered or projected for use in operations or capital at this time. The minimum fund balance required by the MCLS fund balance policy is \$71,401, based on 1.5% of the MCLS 2020 budget.

The proposed budget was reviewed by the Joint Board Finance Committee on February 13. For MCLS, a quorum was not achieved for the committee therefore the budget will be reviewed by the full MCLS Board at the joint meeting. For RPL, the recommendation, on a 2-0 vote, was to submit the budget as reviewed and accepted by the committee.

We are continuing to revise the Central Library Development Aid (CLDA) budget, based on legislative adoption of the state budget and evaluation of FY20 expenditures. How expenses within the proposed FY21 budget will be allocated for CLDA will be submitted for Board approval in the spring.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed 2020-21 Central Library Budget.

RPL Action Items

Proposed FY21 Community Library Budget (Uttaro)

Each year, the City Office of Management and Budget establishes a Base Level Allocation (BLA) amount to be met with each department's budget proposal. This year, a reduction of \$270,500 was requested. Consolidation of administrative functions between Branch and Central administration enabled the elimination of a vacant Administrative Assistant (-\$63,700) and librarian position (-\$43,500), each in Branch Administration with costs shared between Community and Central Library. Several adjustments to part-time support and various operating expenses are recommended as outlined in the attached budget detail. Given the substantial reduction request from the City, and the available fund balance, the budget submission proposes use of \$210,000 in RPL fund balance to reduce impact of budget cuts on operations.

In addition to operating reductions, capital cost reductions of \$60,000 are recommended, deferring an annual HVAC allocation in lieu of a more comprehensive future project. Lastly, a new request to the Rippey Charitable Trust is anticipated to fund a part-time position to support expansion of Raising A Reader services in the Douglass and Wheatley branch service area.

The RPL will advocate for the conversion of a part-time youth librarian position to a full-time position at the Maplewood Community Library, as well as converting a vacant part-time position supporting the Lincoln Toy Library as a full-time early childhood specialist position. This will be submitted as part of the Library's update to the City on the impact of FY20's increased investments in full-time staffing at several branch locations. The proposed budget was reviewed by the Joint Board Finance Committee on February 13 and endorsed X-X by the RPL Finance Committee.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed 2020-21 Community Library Budget.

Professional Services Agreement Extension (Uttaro)

The most recent extension of the library services agreement for The Strong ended December 31. As a refresher, the RPL has operated limited services to The Strong to enable operation of a "mini-branch" at the museum, which includes access to the catalog, shipping and delivery services, and automation (IT services) as requested. We are proposing an additional one-year extension of the December 2014 agreement through December 31, 2020. The reason for a single-year extension is due to Monroe County Library System directors review of our system agreement (Document of Understanding), with intention to create a new multi-year agreement beginning in 2021. The services to member libraries and methodology for system charges may change. While this does not involve The Strong, the percentage increase in member library cost shares is the basis for increase to annual charges for services to The Strong. In addition, the new Document of Understanding will be an opportunity to review options for The Strong to consider enhanced service options or participation as a full member.

If we were to continue with a single-year extension, the 2020 invoicing will increase by 1.5% for a total of \$8,498. This charge is incorporated as Central library revenue in the annual budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve a professional services agreement extension with The Strong for the same terms, conditions and charges as the current December 2014 agreement.

Proposed By-law Amendments (Karin)

At the May 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting, an updated board By-laws was approved that, in part, established that the annual election for officers would occur at the November meeting. Due to an oversight, an internal inconsistency in the approved By-laws needs to be corrected.

Article III paragraph 1 shall be amended as follows: The officers of the Board shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Secretary. All officers shall be Library Trustees. [The terms of Officers shall be the calendar year.]

Article IV, paragraph 1a shall be amended as follows: The Nominating Committee shall be elected at the October meeting. It shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the President and two of whom shall be elected by the Board. The Nominating Committee shall meet as needed and shall make recommendations to the Board for officers and new Board members. The Nominating Committee shall develop a slate of candidates for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, which [slate] shall be presented to the Board at the November meeting [and voted on by the Board at such meeting]. ~~for the vote of officers at the January meeting.~~

Board Action Requested: Approval of the amendments to the Rochester Public Library By-laws as presented.

Report Items

MCLS & RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading

In 2019, More Americans Went to the Library than to Movies - <https://lithub.com/in-2019-more-americans-went-to-the-library-than-to-the-movies-yes-really>

WHEC Story on Article Above - <https://www.whec.com/news/gallup-survey-library-attendance-up/5632490/>

CNN Story on Same - <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/27/us/library-visits-gallup-poll-wellness-trnd/index.html>

The Library is a Smart City's Hub for Digital Intelligence - <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/library-smart-city-hub-digital-intelligence-inlcusion/569012/>

Anti-Poverty Initiative Outlines Goals for 2020 - <https://13wham.com/news/local/anti-poverty-initiative-outlines-2020-goals-for-growing-prosperity>

Upcoming Events

February 29, 9 am – 1 pm: Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues, “Intersectionality in Social and Political Change: A Historical Perspective. Free but pre-registration is required:

<http://www.rainbowdialogues.com/rd2020/>.

MCLS Office Updates

Associate Director Adam Traub reporting

Adam Traub and Alicia Gunther finalized the in-district advocacy visits with New York State senators and assemblypersons. So far, MCLS and its supporters have met with Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes, Assemblyman Peter Lawrence, Senator Rich Funke, Assemblyman Mark Johns, Senator Pamela Hemling, Senator Robert Ort, and Assemblyman Harry Bronson.

Alicia Gunther was the recipient of the Rochester Regional Library Council's Technology Grant, for a project entitled the "MCLS Mobile Technology Lab." Gunther was awarded approximately \$3,800 to purchase a variety of technology, typically found in a makerspace. This equipment will be stored at the Central Library but shared to any MCLS member library to use for library development and programming, mostly focused on Young Adults and Adults.

Shared Collections

Gunther purchased 226 digital titles for Overdrive based on patron requests, waiting lists, and titles expiring soon, along with 30 titles added to the Lucky Day collection to help alleviate waiting lists. The MCLS Mobile Computer Lab and the Large Games were borrowed 1 time each.

Overdrive

- January 2019 Total Checkouts – 62,184
 - Ebook & Audiobooks – 60,153
 - Magazines – 1,946
 - Lucky Day – 1,167

Social Media

January 2020	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/Page Visits	85	82	1170	195	160	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	26 (1839)	9 (2082)	48 (4335)	-	35 (2483)	1 (93)
Engagements	51	31	8367	255	62	10
Check In/ Mentions	26	26	14	-	5	-
Post Reach	10915	7862	39953	4900	1193	-
Video/Story Views	-	-	427	-	0	232
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	9	-	2	5

MCLS Outreach Department, Melanie Lewis reporting

Corrections Support

Work continues with the Educational Coordinator at the downtown corrections facility to build an onsite recreational reading library.

Station Collections

Stations on hold: Wesley Gardens and New Roc Rehab. Deliveries were not affected this month; both sites are Cycle 2 stations. Wesley Gardens has been temporarily shut down due to a water leak. New Roc will resume station services once their new Activities Director is willing to meet with station staff. After much time and effort, all but two of our stations have relocated their station delivery locations closer to a staffed entrance to their site. We have received much positive feedback from Shipping Department staff, who no longer need to wind their way through 38 unfamiliar locations searching for boxes of books.

Outreach

- Amy Discenza spoke to a group from Pathstone's Employment Focused Services Program about various library services. She also highlighted LROC and CASH services. All participants are unemployed and have been placed on probation within the last 6 months or have recently been released from the adult criminal justice system.
- Book Club Support – Librarians assembled and delivered a book discussion kit for Valley Manor and River's Edge Senior Living residents.

Patron Profile – Connie

Connie has been an Outreach patron for a little over a year. She grew up outside of Syracuse, is a graduate of Niagara University (Social Work) and has lived in Monroe County since 2009. During this time, Connie has had several jobs including working for the ARC of Monroe County, and managing an apartment building for disabled residents. She is currently a volunteer for a local mentoring program.

Connie loves reading about crafts and crafting. Her apartment is a mini storehouse filled with supplies. This includes sewing, jewelry making, quilting, needle work...all things. During a recent visit Connie shared that she loves "crafting for causes" and finds crafting healing and therapeutic. She recently made several beautiful satin bags, partnered with Target Stores and filled them with personal hygiene supplies for women. She donated the bags to local organizations in memory of her sister.



Following our last visit, Outreach contacted the Greece Public Library which conducts its own "Craft it Forward" program. Facilitator Kistra Otto is excited to have Connie join the group. Together we will make sure that Connie's crafts are included. Connie also states she will try to recruit some of her neighbors, most of whom are also homebound, to participate using a community room in her building. She wants to share her love of crafting and giving with others.

MCLS Member Libraries

Adam Traub reporting

Member Spotlight: Chili Public Library

Chili Public Library broke ground on their new library building last year, funded partially by New York State Library Construction Aid. The project is meant to act as a new Community Center, which combines the Chili Recreation Center, Senior Center, and Public Library. The library will grow its footprint by 70%, while using the opportunity to upgrade its electrical and computer network to keep up to date with the increasing demand on technologies brought in by community members. The library will also add study rooms for quiet or small group work, which are in high demand in our other member libraries. Furthermore, the growth will allow the library to cater to the specialized needs of various populations by creating dedicated space for teens and senior citizens, while also allowing them to grow their children's room and Makerspace.



Central Library Updates

“Art of the Book” will be coming down in early February, while preparations for next month’s “Gandhi at 150” exhibit continued, including meeting with Kit Miller and Shah Ashwin from the Gandhi Institute. Discussions continued with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to finalize details for a program to be held with the “Deadly Medicine” exhibit coming to the Central Library in March.

Programs

- The Pizzicatomus String Quartet was looking the part during their concert of pop songs from the 1980s and 1990s. Their renditions of songs from the early MTV era kept the audience entertained, and sounded beautiful in Harold Hacker Hall.
- Librarian Mary Fraser led the ukulele “Sing & Strum” jam session in playing and singing TV theme songs that ranged from “Ballad of Gilligan’s Island” to “Big Bang Theory.” Some participants had suggestions for songs that should be included next time (“Spongebob Squarepants” in particular) so this may need to become a January tradition.
- *Rochester Writes* celebrated the beginning of its fourth year of programming with a celebration and reading on January 25. Students and teachers from the 2019 classes gathered in the Rundel Arts Room to socialize with one another, enjoy refreshments and share readings from their written work in front of an audience in a familiar and friendly setting. For some, it was the first time they had shared their writing aloud with others.



- *Central Library's Rochester Writes program has been very fortunate to have award-winning author Alex Sanchez join the writing instruction team at Central Library. Alex's first novel, Rainbow Boys, was selected by the ALA as a Best Book for Young Adults. Subsequent books have won additional awards, including the Lambda Literary Award. Alex is currently teaching a four-part writing series at the library called Create Compelling Characters.*
- *Award-winning author and past Rochester Reads author, Sonja Livingston, returned to Central Library on January 11 to teach a Master Writing Class called Telling Your Stories. The class was filled with over 30 people on the wait list. Evaluation comments included: "Sonja was so organized and so good. This was amazing. Just have more writing classes. They fill up so quickly." "The library is so, so wonderful. I would say, please just keep offering these free writing classes."*

Outreach

- Carol Moldt, Literature Librarian, facilitated another book discussion group at Valley Manor. The group read and discussed *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline, an historical fiction novel based on the true story of abandoned children sent west for adoption between the years of 1854 and 1929. The group had a lively discussion and is especially enjoying having a librarian from Central Library facilitate their discussions. They are also extremely appreciative of the support they receive from Amy Discenza of Central Library's Outreach Division in providing ample copies of their book discussion book in a friendly and timely manner.
- Librarian Andy Coyle reached out to African American churches for the Religious History Series. In February this series will celebrate Black History Month and focus on African American churches in Rochester. He handed out flyers and postcards at the church offices and posted information on the bulletin boards of First Universalist Church downtown, Christ Church on East Avenue, Bethel Christian Fellowship on East Avenue, Third Presbyterian Church on Meigs Street, Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word on East Avenue, Abundance Cooperative Market bulletin board on South Avenue, and Baber AME Church on Meigs Street. The first lecture, *Black Theology: the Life and Work of James Cone*, presented by UR professor Curt Cadorette is at 2 pm, Saturday Feb. 8, in Kusler-Cox Auditorium.

Business Innovation Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Supervisor Jennifer Byrnes attended the first meeting of the SourceLink Implementation Team along with members from Neighborhood & Business Development, REDCO and RIT's Center for Urban Entrepreneurship, among others. SourceLink describes itself as "R&D for Your Entrepreneurial Community" and will have two components: a resource navigator and event calendar, including a hotline, and a referral system/data aggregator to track and analyze which services are effective in supporting small business development. The Business Innovation Center will be one of the anchor institutions and have the capability to run reports.

Business Innovation Center Outreach

Librarian Kate Meddaugh went to the Simone Center at Rochester Institute of Technology to discuss the patent process and to teach InnovationQ to two coaches for their students. Faculty also visited the Business Innovation Center to learn more about our market research services. Byrnes attended the Downtown Development Roundtable and met with Sarah Lentini of the Greece Regional Chamber of Commerce and Paul Kaiser of the NY Business Development Corporation.

Business Innovation Center Consulting

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 18 in person, 1 by email, 1 by mail, 2 by phone.
Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 1

Webpage views: 73

3D Printer: 2

Hours of in-depth market research: Byrnes – 10 Anthony – 3.

Database Usage

IBISWorld: 77 Hits, Value: \$16,480

InnovationQ: 7 users with 110 searches

MarketScope Advisor: 4 visits; 21page views

ValueLine: Logins: 159; Searches: 3,285; Downloads: 1,001

VentureSource: 10 searches

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Meetings & Outreach

- Burton visited Nazareth College's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Senior Seminar, Becoming an Engaged Professional. Each semester the students work on a specific program/project. This semester students will work with physical therapy students and create a February and April Break playground at the Central Library.
- Burton attended the Monroe County Youth Bureau advisory board meeting. There is currently no Executive Director for the Youth Bureau, but programming is continuing. The Program Locator project, partially developed by library staff, is still being planned and waiting for county IT.
- Burton met with Chili Library Youth Services staff to work on their Community Analysis.
- The Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library's Tuesday Topics for January focused on the State of Children's Services. Burton spoke about several children's initiatives including the Raising A Reader program and the crisis with early childhood in the community. Dr. Lisa Hiley from Nazareth College joined Burton to present finding on the 2019 summer research *Utilization of Urban Public Libraries to Promote Summer Literacy: Perspectives of Diverse Families and Library Professionals*. Dr. Hiley supervised two students, Tessa Miller & Abby Zych, throughout the 2019 summer. Miller and Zych talked with staff, patrons, and people in the community who were not using the library to gain insight into why they were not users. Their paper should be done soon and will be shared when available.
- RIT Hyper Space - This annual interior design program assigns a class to create a design charrette with a real-world client and a specific design problem. This year the Secret Room was chosen. There was not one concept that fit exactly what we need but there are pieces from several that could work. The students focused too heavily on what adults might like instead of children and on local history and storage. The



winning group was Haven. They created a space that best fits the changing needs of the room while giving it a creative and child friendly look.

Programs

Mad Science of Western New York visited our Girl Scout troop to teach participants about the science of color and light through hands-on activities. They experimented with a Newton color wheel, refraction glasses and chromatography. Scouts also completed the Meet My Customers badge in preparation for selling cookies in February and March. Next month, our Girl Scout troop will be visited by Dr. Shauna Paradine, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Rochester.



Raising a Reader

In January, Raising A Reader (RAR) is now serving 601 families. The program has continued at the following eleven sites: ABC Head Start Joseph, ABC Head Start North St, ABC Head Start Hart St, Ibero, Hillside Southwest, Hillside Peter Castle, RCN Center City, Volunteers of America, School #10, School #2, and ABC Home Visiting. RAR team members including Lauren Seaver (Central), Alex Haehn (Wheatley), Jen Nesbitt (Sully), Sarah Ngo (Douglass), Jasmine Santiago (Lincoln), and Nancy Cholewa (Arnett) continue visiting every RAR classroom on a weekly basis to support the bag rotation and offer early literacy story time programs to the children and teachers. Katie Powell (Central) also acted as a substitute to conduct class visits and the bag rotation at Peter Castle Center. In addition, missing or damaged RAR supplies (books, bags, DVDs) have also been replenished at various sites (Ibero, Peter Castle, RCN, VOA).

A new librarian joined the RAR team this month. Jessica Smith, from Lyell Branch Library, shadowed Seaver at both Hart Street and Volunteers of America. Smith is expected to serve School 57. Tonia Burton, Seaver, and Smith offered a RAR orientation training to the teachers of School 57, which Smith also attended. The bag rotation is expected to begin at School 57 in February.

In addition, Burton and Seaver have been working with the sites to create a form so that families can utilize time spent in RPL libraries towards their required Head Start in-kind hours.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

New Borrowers: 142

Access cards: 12

Notarial Acts: 287

Circulation Anecdotes

- Kathy Sochia performed 115 notarial acts for one patron. Sochia spent more than an hour helping the patron. The patron needed legal paperwork notarized and was very grateful that the library provides this service free of charge.
- Chad Cunningham issued library cards to three college students on a snowy Saturday afternoon. The students have been in Rochester for several years and didn't realize they could get local library cards. They were thrilled to know that they had access to both print and digital books and were very impressed by fun collections like the ukuleles and board games.
- Sochia and security guard Pedro Nunez assisted a young man who was displaying signs of mental struggle. Sochia talked to him and determined that he was experiencing paranoia and might possibly self-harm. She convinced him to let her call 911. Nunez waited with the young man and talked to him and kept him company while waiting for the police. The police were able to convince the young man to leave in an ambulance to get assistance.

Information Anecdotes

- Information Desk staff have been helping a man to obtain his birth certificate from Buffalo. Staff helped him with an online application, which was rejected. After further talking with the patron, he revealed that he was in the foster care system. Staff looked up how to apply for a birth certificate for someone who was adopted and discovered that starting on January 15, 2020, NY State will be the 10th state to allow unrestricted access for people to obtain their pre-adoption birth certificates. The patron came back after that date and staff were able to help him apply.
- A patron came in who was very anxious because he was soon going to be forced to move from his apartment and had nowhere to go. Information Desk staff showed him several apartment hunting resources and assisted him with the start of his search. The patron came in a few days later to let the staff know that he had found a nice place to live.

Local History & Genealogy Division, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The Local History & Genealogy Division introduced a new lecture series this month in partnership with the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery. This inaugural session of Mourning in the Morning featured Dennis Carr speaking to an impressive turnout of 42 attendees on the subject of "The Arrest and Trial of Susan B. Anthony: Strategy, Tactics and the Struggle for the Vote."
- Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler hosted the monthly *Think Genealogy It's Saturday* (TGIS) program. This month's topic, ThruLines™ by Ancestry.com, proved especially popular, yielding a larger-than-average attendance of 17 people, with lively conversation and questions during and following the presentation.
- Koehler also presented a talk on immigration at the Charlotte Library's First Thursday Local History Series. She included an overview of the Local History & Genealogy Division's resources.

Exhibitions

- The division's well-received exhibit, *Everyday People: The Dinkle Family and Rochester's African American Past*, remains on display on the second floor of the Rundel Memorial Building until August 31, 2020. The next program affiliated with it will be an African American Genealogy-focused session of TGIS (Think Genealogy It's Saturday) on February 22. A scaled-down version of the exhibit

will be displayed at the Monroe County Department of Human Services in celebration of Black History Month in February.

- The division is preparing to loan several original issues of Frederick Douglass newspapers to the Visual Studies Workshop for an exhibition February 21 to June 27. Curated by local artist and RIT professor Joshua Rashaad McFadden, the exhibit, *Evidence*, coincides with publication of a short-run newspaper of the same name created by McFadden. The exhibit will feature McFadden's newspaper and his recent photographs of young African American Rochesterians juxtaposed with the Douglass newspapers to highlight Rochester's African American heritage and demonstrate the historic formulation of Black male identity. One of the division's Douglass newspapers will also be displayed in Kusler-Cox Auditorium during two special events hosted by Teen Central related to this exhibit on February 7.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- Ridarsky collaborated with Ryan Hughes, the Rochester Regional Library Council's Digital Initiatives Librarian, to re-develop the www.RocSuffrage.org website that was established in 2017. The site has been rebranded as the City's official website for Rochester's 2020 celebration of the centennial of the 19th amendment, which recognized U.S women's right to vote, and Susan B. Anthony's birthday. In addition, Ridarsky provided support to the City Communications Department for Mayor Lovely A. Warren's January 16 press conference, at which she announced the City's slate of 2020 woman suffrage commemorative events.
- The latest issue of the *Rochester History* journal was sent to the printer in January and will be distributed to subscribers in mid-February. It features an article by *Democrat & Chronicle* reporter Justin Murphy entitled "Racial Segregation in Rochester Schools, 1818–1856." Also in January, Ridarsky, who is journal editor, met with Bruce Austin, Director of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Press, and Tamar Carroll, Chair of RIT's Department of History, to discuss a possible partnership between RIT, the library, and the Office of the City Historian that would expand the *Rochester History* journal's reach while reducing the production burden of the journal on library staff. Austin and Carroll will present the proposal to the dean of RIT's College of Liberal Arts in February; contract negotiations are expected to begin soon thereafter.
- Morry assisted staff from three different media outlets with stories and programs. She was interviewed by freelance writer Sierra Guardiola of *Finger Lakes Magazine* about the history and significance of the Times Square Building in Rochester; the article's publication date is to be determined. Morry assisted Maureen McGuire of WROC-TV identify source material for a story on women in the Rochester Police Department. Derrick Lucas of JAZZ 90.1 FM radio also sought Morry's assistance in preparing for a lecture on the history of jazz in Rochester, having read Morry's four-part series on the topic on the division's *LocalHistoryRocs!* blog.
- Ridarsky collaborated with Robert J. Benz, co-founder of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and David Anderson of the Rochester-Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission to facilitate the transfer of a bust and three paintings of Rochester's first African American businessman, Austin Steward, from the Rochester Riverside Hotel to the library. The items had been on display in the hotel, which sits on the site of Stewart's grocery and meat market, for many years, but the hotel is scheduled to be demolished this year. The bust is currently on display on the 2nd floor of the Rundel Memorial Building; the paintings are in storage until we can identify an appropriate space for them to be displayed.

- Ridarsky and Finn met with Jen Lenio to develop a proposal for library participation in VoterCade 2020, the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House's year-long celebration marking the 200th birthday of Susan B. Anthony and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

Special Collections

- The division accepted one new special collection this month, a set of thirty-three 8 x 10 canvas-backed photographs documenting Berger Bros. Electric Motors, a local company. The photographs, which include exterior and interior views, as well as employees at work in office and warehouse areas, were taken October 1930 at the plant at 1346 University Avenue, where the company was based between 1928 and 1938.
- Fess completed finding aids for six collections in January: the Lynn Varricchio Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS records; the Children's Playground League records; the Jarvis E. Smith papers (detailing the business and activities of a 19th-century pharmacist in Clyde, New York, over a 30-year period); the Collection of Lantern Slides of Early Rochester Maps (dating from the early 19th century into the 1920s); the City Manager's Committee on Housing records; and the Citizen's City Planning and Housing Council records. The last two collections shed light on Rochester's halting attempts to voluntarily improve city housing stock in the period before the establishment of the Rochester Housing Authority, between 1938 and 1945. Because these appear to be government records, Ridarsky will confer with the City's Records Management Officer on their disposition.
- In addition, volunteer Ciara Arnold completed her inventory of previously non-inventoried historic newspapers and organized them into boxes. Intern Dakota Spinner inventoried and organized 10 boxes of clipping files that were part of a donation from the *Rochester Business Journal*.

Digital Projects

Ridarsky met with the library's Digital Assets Management System (DAMS) Team (Pellegrino and Fess of the Local History & Genealogy Division, MCLS Associate Director Adam Traub, and Brenda LaCrosse, Mary Royce, and Mary Jane Wright of Library Automation Services) to discuss the preliminary report the team submitted prior to the holidays and a meeting between Ridarsky, Traub, and Ryan Hughes, the Rochester Regional Library Council's Digital Initiatives Librarian. The next step for the team will be to oversee a purge of unnecessary digital files to reduce long term digital storage requirements. Fess will likely be reassigned from his current focus on special collections to undertake the file review and purge beginning July 1. Future steps will involve developing a long-term, sustainable storage solution for the library's digital assets, while beginning the process of providing access to these assets through the New York Heritage website, www.nyheritage.org.

Rochester Voices

Finn and educational consultant Andrea Geglia wrapped up the Erie Canal for the Classroom project, funded the Erie Canalways National Heritage Corridor. Geglia developed a suite of 13 classroom lessons (inquiries, activities, and assessments) and two instructional guides on resources and teaching strategies, all aligned with the New York's 4th-grade Social Studies standards. Finn curated and uploaded 60 primary sources to a newly created Erie Canal topic section on www.RochesterVoices.org. The lessons and more than 40 additional primary source materials will be uploaded to the site in coming weeks.

Social Media

Staff from the Local History and Genealogy Division contributed content for 16 social media posts in January: 4 on Twitter, 6 on Facebook, 3 Facebook Events, and 3 blog entries on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. These posts reached 10,446 people: 6,050 on Facebook, 1,987 on

Twitter, and 2,409 on our blog; 189 people engaged with our posts on Facebook, 15 on Twitter, and 107 on our blog. Morry contributed an article on the history of Edgerton Park called “Ch-Ch-Changes: From a Prison to a Park”; Substitute Librarian Christopher Brennan contributed an entry called “‘A Good Guy?’: The Life and Death of ‘Sammy G’ Gingello (October 24, 1939 – April 23, 1978)”; and PT Clerk III Hope Christansen contributed another installment of “What’s New in Local History and Genealogy?” (LHGD Newsletter. Vol. 1, No. 5).

Volunteer/Intern hours

Docents from the Rochester Genealogical Society contributed 21 hours of service to the division and assisted 13 patrons in January. In addition, we were aided by five unaffiliated volunteers (Kevin Allen – 4 hours; Ciara Arnold – 4.5 hours; Karen Knoll – 3.5 hours; Noeme Liestman – 3.5 hours; and Ira Srole – 29.25 hours) and one intern from the Rochester Rehabilitation Employment Connection (Dakota Spinner – 90 hours). In all, volunteers contributed 155.75 hours.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

- Hoopla Circulation: 1,564
 - Movies/TV: 373
 - Audiobooks: 713
 - Music: 93
 - Ebooks: 287
 - Comics: 98
- New Users: 42
- Reynolds Media Center started circulating 10 Mi-Fi units in late November. As of the end of December (five weeks) they have 43 circulations (one on the hold shelf and six holds waiting). They will be looking at adding more units after two months of circulation.
- In December Reynolds Media Center also started circulating “Binge Boxes” purchased through Midwest Tapes. Binge Boxes are different groups of DVDs with a common theme (i.e. “Don’t Mess with Denzel,” “Christmas Gone Wrong,” “Dude, Where’s My Comedy”). The 13 different boxes have been popular, with 34 circs in three weeks and they are now looking at making their own “Binge Bundles” using second copies from the stacks and copies coming in as gifts, so no cost to us.

Anecdotes

While setting up the display on mentorship, two regular patrons asked what was being displayed. They suddenly became very interested and started suggesting films for the display. Another gentleman walked over and joined in. Premo managed to find the movies they suggested, and they all seemed very gratified when they were added to the display. A great spontaneous interaction!

Sciences and History, Darlene Richards reporting

- New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Facilitated Self Assistance Tax Program: Library Assistant Florence Morris met with Corinne Clar for graphic coordination; Brie Harrison regarding the Memorandum of understanding; and with the site manager. This service will be available every Wednesday through tax season. The first Wednesday 10 people were seen, and two returns were prepared.

- Sarah Bishopp Vélez and Richards attended an excellent live webinar presented by Ryan Dowd, Director of a large homeless shelter outside of Chicago, IL. Ryan reviewed basic psychology, including the ins and out of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), in order to paint a better picture of how many homeless persons think and react to certain situations. The training has provided a framework for addressing potential conflicts in the library.
- Zachary Clarry (Social Studies Teacher) and Alicia DiFranco (School Library Media Specialist) and six students from the Honeoye Falls Middle School visited the Division to conduct research for their National History Day projects. The topics included: The Wright Brothers first flight, Amelia Earhart, and human DNA. Librarian Renee Kendrot and Richards assisted the students with using the NOVEL databases to search for journal articles that pertained to their topics. They were very pleased with the materials that were available to assist the students.

Programs

- Got Health--Patrick Seche, Director of Strong Recovery, presented on the topic of common substances to which people have become addicted. Seche requested that the program be extended to include Narcan training at the end. Fifteen people attended the in-person health talk and Narcan training and received Narcan kits. 36 people have viewed the Facebook live stream recording.
- Heath Central hosted the Monroe County Health Department to conduct free RAPID testing for sexually transmitted infections and vaccinations for flu and Hepatitis A; 12 people were vaccinated. The Monroe County Health Department will return in about six months to administer the second dose of the Hepatitis A vaccine.
- LROC assisted with 30 Human Services Cases, while the Volunteer Legal Services Project helped 7 people with legal issues.

Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Antoine McDonald Library Assistant reports that a visit to Channel 10 News station was a great experience for not only the teens but for himself as well. We were able to get backstage access of the studio and sit in on a live taping. The teens enjoyed themselves and the station enjoyed hosting us as well.
- McDonald continues to hold the weekly Youth Book Club. During the month of January, McDonald was able to outreach services to the UPREP Charter School and Pillars of Hope Mentoring Program.
- Jeff Bostic and McDonald are working with Sarah Lehman at Lincoln to create digital data that may be used to ascertain resident's conceptions of art within the Main Street Corridor.
- Gaming in the imagineYOU Media Lab is based on one's perception. Many people's understanding of what gaming is or what it constitutes revolves around the traditional idea of buying a gaming console or computer bringing it to your residence, then purchasing a disk or online game for it and playing by yourself or with someone online. However, in the last year the Esporting/Gaming business has now surpassed the publishing industry for the billions it is taking in every year. There



are regular esportsing events that are attended by thousands. There are gaming superstars that are revered by fans. Many of the teens in the area follow and watch these superstars regularly. Sites such as Twitch are streaming at a level not even YouTube can come close to. To become competitive in this e-sporting arena, all the same tools and the technology used for broadcast media are required. This requires someone with a broadcasting background to help teens learn the basics of audio and video production along with manipulating those products in a social media atmosphere.

Outreach/Community Contacts

Action for A Better Community (ABC) worked with us to provide a sexual education training opportunity in the Teen Area. Holding programs like this in a public setting not only benefits the attendees, but those in the area who would otherwise never ask or consider the information.

imagineYOU Media Lab

- 403 Visitors
- The Urban League brought over 20 kids this month for a seminar. They were walked through taking different pictures using the aperture and shutter speeds of our cameras. They were also taught how to make people look bigger or smaller.
- Two teens entered our monthly contest and were brave enough to make themselves disappear this month. They were given smoke effects to choose from and these are what they came up with. https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EjQ5Emq8WjtLuyfdSqlW6JYBTEX2kEL0qnpbm4Er4vWgHw?e=RpTo94
- There were several more teens certified this month. The studio is now booked at least three weeks in advance.
- The Saturday classes started this month with most of the participants attending both photography classes. They were taught how to use the different modes of a DSLR camera, how to light their shots, and how to aim the camera. They got hands on practice for each thing. One of the class participants was able to capture this shot with low enough aperture to only have the Clorox wipes in focus, and high enough shutter speed to catch the ping pong balls in mid-flight.



Branch Libraries

Tolley Reeves, EdD reporting

On January 15, Ana Suro, Joan Lee and Dr. Reeves met with Rose Nichols, Affirmative Action/ADA Officer for the City of Rochester, to discuss the challenges and opportunities in developing our workforce. As a result of our conversation, Dr. Nichols will assist us in advertising to fill some of our vacant positions on a broader scale. In some instances, we have challenges recruiting for specific job titles and positions. Dr. Nichols will assist us as we explore title changes, assess our current workforce and develop advancement and educational opportunities

Safe to Be Smart, Derrick Coley reporting

The Arnett site

- Shetora Banks has been mentoring several teens in job readiness skills.
- Teens researched Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They learned his favorite meal was fried chicken, collards, yams, and pecan pie. We celebrated his birthday with sweet potato pie because none of the teens liked pecan pie. We learned that Stevie Wonder wrote the famous song *Happy Birthday* for MLK Jr and was a major contributor in fighting for a MLK Jr., national holiday. The teens added other facts and pics on a display.



The Phillis Wheatley site

- To celebrate the New Year, Lyncisha Bostick-Beckford had the teens create vision boards. They used old magazines and clippings to envision their goals for this year.
- The teens were creative and made bath bombs. Several of the teens couldn't want to get home and try them out. Others said that they were going to give them as gifts.
- Bostick-Beckford took the teens ice skating at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park. The teens had a great time!

The Maplewood site

- Yaliza Frank has been mentoring the teens to take responsibility for their own behaviors. She continues to hold group and individual discussions with teens that have behavioral issues in the branch. Frank implements positive reinforcement approaches to help teens cut down on disruptive behaviors. T
- his month we experimented with several different STEM projects, explored different ways to uplift others and continued our work on reading fluency and advancing the ways in which we think.
- We started the month off by finishing our Short Film/Stop Motion Animation video. We had a few glitches but overall the youths were pleased and excited with their video. The theme of the video was the inclusion of girls in school sports that are considered to be for boys.

The Lincoln site

- Vera Haygood focused on health awareness with the teens. She created an awareness bulletin board acknowledging diabetes, lung cancer, healthy skin, suicide survivors, and family caregivers.
- Haygood continues to provide assistance with Internet useage, Email set up, job search & Online applications and homework help as needed.
- Our Awareness bulletin continues to bring awareness to youth as well as other community members. Youth answer questions in reference to any awarenesses for the month to obtain additional computer time. In January the teens learned about National Winter sports traumaitc brain injury (TBI) and National Drug and Alochol facts.

The Sully site

George Carter continues to provide chess instruction to teens and has several teens coming to play daily.

Sully teens creates their own personalized “I Have a Dream speech” to share in our group. Writing then reading their dreams out loud will not only serve as a reminder to themselves of what they want for their future, but also helps to encourage others as well.

Carter remains the point of contact for truant students that may frequent the branch during school hours.

Carter facilitated the Sully Book club with a mixed group of girls and boys this month. The past groups have been predominantly teenage boys.



Teen Central site

- To celebrate Black History Month, Teen Central ordered two sheet pizzas and asked the teens to find a Black History fact before they eat. We challenged them to find facts about African Americans who were not always in the spotlight such as Dr King or Rosa Parks. Lydia Williams and John Hylton felt that this was a great way to get the teens to learn and research information. They were able to find very interesting people who pioneered in various eras and fields.
- It was good to see some of Teen Central's teens who have moved up and out of the Teen Center and are now on their own journey of life. There are many teens who have moved on but these two young men Jhonte, and Macs like to come and give us updates on their lives. They both have great jobs are furthering their education and one of them is even engaged. It is good to see that our mentoring is paying off.
- The teens enjoyed making art using rainbow reveal paper with their friends and unveiling all the cool colors. Many of the teens had never seen this type of paper that originated in 1980 and was part of my childhood. It was fun for them to explore another way to create art with an almost forgotten method.

Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

- Nancy Cholewa, YA Librarian reports that Arnett started the year 2020 with information about New Year's Celebrations from around the world. For example, in Germany they eat jelly donuts for good luck, but watch out for the ones filled with mustard, instead of jelly. We ate jelly donuts and she let the kids think that some might be filled with mustard, but, of course, none were. In Spain, they eat 12 grapes, one for each month of the New Year. In Brazil, they throw white flowers to the Queen of the Sea to ensure safe passage for their fisherman. In many countries round things are important; wearing polka dots, eating pancakes, donuts and other round foods, throwing coins into the water, etc. We also discovered that the color of your underwear is significant in several countries. While it varied slightly from country to country in summary: white underwear will bring peace, red –love, yellow or gold underwear will bring wealth. We had a good time eating the snacks and talking about the New Year's traditions in our own families.
- The MLK plaques were a lot of fun. At first, the kids were hesitant to begin, as often happens with projects that are open to personal creativity, but once they got started, they really got into it. Several kids made more than one and one young lady decorated her quote by writing the “I Had a Dream” speech to frame the shorter quote. While we worked there was discussion about MLK Jr., how the different quotes pertained to the teen and other unrelated topics of the teen's choice.

- Homework help sessions, numerous story times, LEGO club and Tail Waggin's Tutoring programs were facilitated by me, Prudence Anderson Leusch and many volunteers. One of Anderson-Leusch's crafts was extra popular with the kids. It consisted of making winter snowman out of sock and other materials.
- Ginger Brewer-Bennett's computer classes and one-on-one tutoring sessions were strongly valued by her students. One of the students, Carolyn, has been working extremely hard and has a strong passion for wanting to learn the computer and its functions. She once told Brewer-Bennett how she wanted to practice on her own laptop but didn't have the means to do so. Brewer-Bennett took all of this into consideration and decided that Carolyn needed a laptop of her own so that she can further explore the world of technology. Using her own money, Brewer-Bennett purchased a gently used laptop and made sure it was in good working order with all the relevant software and gave it to Carolyn. Carolyn was beyond thrilled and stated, "This act of kindness added to the reasons why I love the Arnett Library."
- On January 18, the Arnett Library community celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program included keynote speaker, Ruth Scott. Mrs. Scott is the first African American woman to serve as Rochester City Council President. She is also a businesswoman and a philanthropist who has a connection with the late Coretta Scott King. Additional performers included New Life Ministries Choir, a poet, and a singer and orator from Teen Empowerment. The attendees were overjoyed with the quality of the program. Mike Green of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services presented Zola Brown from the 19th Ward Neighborhood Association, who facilitated the program, a proclamation from Governor Andrew Cuomo. The Democrat and Chronicle wrote a nice article about the event: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2020/01/18/martin-luther-king-jr-19th-ward-honor-slain-civil-rights-leader/4495037002/>
- Arnett's home improvement energy grant workshops, Digital Literacy Volunteers of Rochester sessions, and High School Equivalency Exam Prep sessions were well attended in the month of January.



Community Outreach/Meetings

Arnett librarians attended two community meetings and continued to conduct outreach. Outreach Librarian, Pat Connor represented Arnett at School #16 where she visited 3 classes and read stories to 51 children and 10 adults.

Cholewa's Raising a Reader programs each week continue to be a major success. Cholewa enjoys seeing kid's growth and development from week to week at these sessions. The three-year-old children are showing particular growth. Their participation, curiosity and understanding of the classroom expectations, improves visibly from week to week. The four-year old class Cholewa visits each week votes on at least one book they will read. One week there was a very close vote over which Elephant and Piggy book to read. The children accepted the vote very well. A non-verbal student had another

breakthrough during January. The class sang the *Red Bag* song, which has a section where everyone throws up their hands and shouts “Read, read.” He was right there for the first time, shouting “Read, read” loud and clear. Cholewa could tell by the teacher’s reaction that this was totally unexpected. Cholewa reports that it is amazing to see the advances the child has made in such a short time and that it is so wonderful to be a part of that growth.

Anecdotes/Other

- Several of Arnett’s displays generated a lot of interest during January. Brewer-Bennett’s MLK display received numerous comments about the display, books and movies.
- Linda Smith, Cholewa and I created a display that will be used in a Black History Month contest during February that is already proving to be very popular. Contestants have to correctly identify noted local African Americans featured in the display to be eligible for a raffle to win prizes at the end of February.



Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs

- Perhaps the biggest change this month was the arrival of several pieces of new furniture. For the basement meeting rooms we received eight tables, and plenty of chairs. Our old folding tables were so heavy that only my-self and Ron, our cleaner, were willing to set them up and take them down (which we had to do frequently). The new tables are heavily built too, but they are on wheels and so it’s easy for anyone to move them into place and raise the tabletops. The demand for our meeting room has been increasing gradually so the new, attractive and more functional furniture is very welcoming. The rug still needs replacement as it’s somewhat worn and heavily stained.
- In addition to the meeting room furniture we also received a couple of small round café tables with chairs for the first floor. These are placed in an alcove created by two banks of shelves. We had a long library table in there that was too big for the space. It made browsing and shelving awkward, and it’s rare that anyone has need for a long study table anymore. People want small furniture that can accommodate one or two people, plus a laptop or tablet. All our first-floor tables are now these small casual café tables, and I personally think they make the space look lighter and fresher. A special thanks to Dave LaCrosse and Warren Wymore of the Maintenance Dept. for hauling all the old furniture away. Our storage spaces were at capacity, crammed with unwanted stuff, and now it’s all cleared out.
- This month we also received a freestanding plastic sandwich board-type sign meant for simple outdoor advertising. We used it to advertise the book sale we had at the end of the month, positioning the sign so it was visible from both Lake Ave. and Britton Road. The sale turned out to be one of the busiest ones we’ve had in a long time. It could be coincidence, but we do think the sign may have had something to do with it. We’re looking forward to using it to advertise other programs, and to see what effect it has on attendance.
- Aside from the new furniture and the book sale, the biggest event this month was our annual visit



from the Amerks moose and one of the Amerks team members. They interacted with the kids, read a story, and handed out free tickets to a hockey game. This is always a pretty popular offering, and this year we had 40 attendees.

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

- Cara Rager from WXXI visited Douglass and brought out paper bags, string, tin foil, paper towels, and tissue paper to create parachutes. The kids got to pick a small toy to test with their creations.
- Douglass is also hosting Nazareth College Speech Pathology students with the help of Dr. Lisa Hiley. These students interact and assist the children with our STEM activities. We had about 25 attendees.

Community Outreach/Meetings

Caitlin Stahovic-Barnes attended the monthly Teen Book Festival meeting at Johanna Perrin Middle School in Fairport on January 11. The festival is being held May 16, 2020 at RIT. The committee still has a lot of ground to cover before the festival. Stahovic-Barnes and Xandi DiMatteo are co-chairs of the first ever Teen Book Festival Teen Advisory Board. DiMatteo and Stahovic-Barnes will lead a small group of teens in helping the planning committee decided on certain aspects of the festival. Stahovic-Barnes is also a point person for the Teen Author Panel and Opening Session where the authors are welcomed.

Anecdotes/Other

- Sarah Ngo is still actively working with the Douglass R-Center to bring kids over to the library every day to do homework, utilize technology, color, and borrow books. This school year, Ngo is visiting five classrooms at Rochester Childfirst Network weekly. The total participation is 81. In addition, Ngo visited Action For a Better Community Joseph location and Rochester Childfirst Network weekly for a combined total of seven times in January. The total participation was 177.
- Ngo also went to The Rise School three times for her preschool storytime visits.
Total Participation: 50
Total Library Users for our Kid's Space: 1031
Total Number for Homework Help: 105
Total Number of Rec Participation: 86
Total Number of iPad uses: 154
Total Number of Laptop Uses: 30

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Monroe Children's Services Librarian Margaret Paige made her first mentor visit this month in order to guide Jasmine Santiago in her efforts in children's services. Santiago, a Library Assistant, was given information on how to simplify ordering, keep track of past programs, how to add more content to her story times, and much more! The meeting was immensely helpful!
- In January, Safe to be Smart Youth Services Assistant, Vera Haygood and Sarah Lehman were able to meet with representatives from the Young Adult Re-Entry Program through Pathstone. The program focuses on assisting youth ages 18-24 that have been through the criminal justice system with tasks such as job searching, resume/cover letter creation, interview skills, high school equivalency, financial literacy and other skills. We met with them to find out how our two organizations could

work together to help connect more youth with these resources. They will be coming out to Lincoln in February to hold a workshop on job skills development.

Toy Library

- January at the Toy Library focused on science concepts of sound, air, states of matter, and hibernation. We coordinated with the children's librarian on a Saturday program featuring large blocks of ice and its reaction to salt.
- We had school visits from Hillside Universal Pre-Kindergarten weekly for the Tuesday programs and a visit from School #50 who brought their Universal Pre-Kindergarten class and enjoyed acting out the story *Don't Wake the Bear*. One of the parents has been coming regularly with her four children since the field trip visit.
- We have had an enormous number of donations. Council Rock Primary School arrived this week with a van full of toys, all in very good condition. It takes a lot of time to sort through the toys and determine if they are a good choice for the circulating collection. We are planning another toy giveaway in February to clear out the closets in the Community Room where toys are piling up.
- Sarah Fitts-Romig received the following Thank You note from a patron.



January 23, 2020

Dear Sarah,

We want to thank you so much for your help and guidance in selecting some toys for our grandchildren's visit over Christmas. They loved them, and thoroughly enjoyed their playtime with us. With one two years old and the other three and three quarters, both boys, it was a lively holiday. The Toy Library is such a wonderful resource for parents and grandparents, and we had as much fun choosing the toys as do the young patrons in your library. We especially were grateful for the two sturdy toddler chairs that you allowed us to take out, as they made all the difference in calm dinner experiences as well as providing a way for them to do activities at a child's table we had.

Thank you again for your wonderful service to the parents and children of this community!

Sincerely,

Janice Barber & Douglas Baker

Lyell Branch-Shamika Fusco reporting

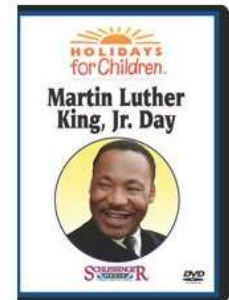
Programs

- On our Mystery Tuesday's we played Tic-Tac-Toe, did a foam sticker craft, and played with modeling clay. The modeling clay activity was requested by one of our young patrons and she was thrilled to see we were doing an activity she had asked for!
- This month we tried a month-long program. Ten small pictures of different items are hidden throughout the Children's Room and the child checks off the name of the picture as they find it.



Once they find all ten pictures (sometimes with a little bit of help from us) the child can pick from our prize box. It has been a huge hit!

- Our children's librarian is offering pop up storytimes every time we have two or more children in the room. She is very optimistic that we will have a strong program by summer.
- In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day our library did a variety of activities. We played his last sermon, created book displays, gave out bookmarks, and printed activity sheets. Lyell also played Martin Luther King, Jr Day children's film from the holidays. It gave our kids a friendly history lesson appropriate for families.
- This month Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. invited graduating seniors and juniors from the Monroe County area to learn how to look for and apply for scholarships. Participants were also given applications to apply for the local and National Zeta Phi Beta Scholarships.
- Maat Law Academy requested to use our space to have open conversations with teens about the law.
- This month's focus was on the Zeta Youth Book Club. The girls are reading *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake. We will be discussing it next month at Lyell and we will distribute the new book *Girl's Resist: A Guide to Activism, Leadership and Starting a Revolution* given to us through a partnership with the Women's Foundation.



- Patrons seem extra appreciative of the increased number of items placed onto our complimentary sharing shelf. Many items fly off the shelf very quickly according to increased demand in patron need. Patrons are consistently adding donations to our cart. One of our patrons left for Florida, so he donated most of his books before he left.
- Noyema Averbakh, Holocaust Survivor shared her story and her family's story with us on National Holocaust Remembrance Day, courtesy of the Jewish Federation. Mr. Charles Konar, who accompanied her, briefly shared his family's experience during the holocaust. Noyema shared: "My childhood was stolen by the Nazis" Her family spent 29 months in a ghetto with up to 15 people in one room. When she was 6 years old, her family hid in a root cellar in the dark for 4 days with only water. She had a cough but was not allowed to make a sound.





- We have a Coffee & Reference Question Friday Club. Patrons are encouraged to ask questions or provide us with comments and suggestions in regard to program and collection development.
- This month Digital Literacy Volunteers have committed to working at least 12 hours per week. It is truly needed and is appreciated. They have assured us that they will assist with the upcoming census 2020 survey process. To assist with the recruiting of employees for the census, we hosted a hiring event. In addition to that we have been promoting events through Facebook and Eventbrite. More than 10 patrons participated in this event.
- Our Soulstainable Living Digital Book Club Online literacy circle is quite the hit on Facebook. People are happy to participate on a platform that doesn't include heavy commitment. Participants are encouraged to purchase or borrow items from Lyell Branch Library and read at their own pace. At the end of the month an online live discussion takes place where participants can comment and ask questions. Lyell Branch will also be creating a program around the event i.e. film screening, theme-based projects, meetups, and hangouts.
- Bill & Larry come faithfully to the library twice a week and the relationship that they have created is phenomenal. Bill is a white male from Canada and Larry is a Black male from Rochester. Their cultural and racial identity is so different and I think it furthermore enhances the relationship.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

In efforts to promote for Take Your Child to the library day, Mrs. Shamika visited the after-school program at #57. Children received flyers, information and a free book.

Anecdotes/Other

- Free faxing has been well received and patrons are extremely grateful. It has reduced the time that we spend at the fax machine and the patrons are way more patient.
- A female patron, Cierra, new to the crochet club said that she sought out our group specifically when she inquired and found out that it was free, unlike other places she had inquired, such as at fabric stores, where it wasn't. She



was delighted that this was available at her neighborhood library! She is very grateful to Ms. Laura for offering this program here. (Incidentally she is being considered for our Literacy Aide position.)

- We received new tables and chairs. Everyone has been so appreciative and grateful. They look so attractive and are so much easier to move.



Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- For children's programs, Connect 4 and Smash Bros. continue to be hits at the library. Maplewood has great competitive patrons that are enjoying these challenges and learning good sportsmanship.
- Crafting continues to be popular. There were opportunities to create egg crate owls, nests and yarn paintings.
- The Academy of Health Sciences paid a visit to our building in search of students to attend their growing school. They provided a wealth of fun experiments for our children that they thoroughly enjoyed. Our younger patrons enjoy playing a fashion show game on Roblox, but this month they decided to use our costume box to put on their own live fashion show in our children's room. It was fantastic.
- Another one of our patrons aspires to be a teacher and has created a program called Ready 4 Reading. Her first successful program had eight young patrons learning to read, draw and act out stories. It was very impressive to see a pre-teen create such an elaborate lesson plan and pull off a successful class with very young children.
- A young adult writing group was held in the month of January. Some of the topics discussed were figuring out what you want to write about, using writing exercises, how to organize and structure your writing. The youth were shown an image which they would use to create a brief story. Also discussed was the importance of knowing that you will need to edit and re-write your work and that it is a process.
- Evanna DiSalvo attended the Rochester Complete Count Subcommittee for New Americans Meeting, the Social Responsibility Committee Meeting at Maplewood YMCA, and the Rochester Committee on Rochester Resettlement meeting.
- DiSalvo spoke with Joan Edwards about the progress that Xiling Yang is making. Joan is tutoring Yang for the Naturalization exam at the Newman Riga Library in Churchville. Yang had been driving from Bergen to the library; DiSalvo contacted the Churchville library director Lynn Brown to find a volunteer tutor. It just so happened that a senior citizen had just asked Brown about volunteer opportunities! I met with Joan Edwards in November 2019 and provided materials for her to use, she began meeting with Yang in December. It sounds like she is doing a great job and Yang is making good progress.



Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg, reporting

Programs

- We enjoyed a great turnout with this dance and drum program from Womba Africa. The program was held at the YMCA next door, over 40 people attended and many participated in the educational component of the program. At the very end the artists led us in a simple circle dance. Artists had a great rapport with all ages, and, as seen in the photo, they made a positive impression on children and families. Due to word of mouth and more print/online publicity and advertising, we're looking forward to an even larger attendance when Womba Africa returns on February 11.
- The Computer Tutor Program has taken off and become wildly popular. It is booked weeks in advance. I let the students lead the way and tell me what they need to learn, and I love teaching them.



Outreach/Community Involvement

Children's Librarian, Margaret Paige, visited Mrs. Kenyon's Universal Pre-Kindergarten class. The theme was the alphabet and our main text was *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr. Paige was invited to stay for the snack with frosting and alphabet pretzels, as well as small group activity and recall. The extra time allowed for some good photo opportunities as well.



Paige visited Ms. Clayton's first grade classroom at School #23 for story time. The theme was astronomy and outer space. The first book shared was *Rocket Says Look Up!* by Nathan Bryon and illustrated by Dapo Adeola. We then completed a story and activity from Bedtime Math called *Ice Cream for All – Even Astronauts*. We completed the math problems for "Little Kids," "Big Kids," and the "Bonus." Paige was really impressed because we solved all the problems without using pencil and paper. Between the engaging story and the math, the students' brains were certainly buzzing with activity. As usual, there were many great questions and observations, and Paige was again honored with hearing students' work from The Authors' Chair. They had all written introductions to their books on the planets. Paige is pictured with the class of 19 students and their teacher (far right) who are happily engaged from the story-time rug. As usual, we all learn a lot and have great discussions during these visits!



Anecdotes/Other

- Rhea Zweifler does programs at Monroe on Mindfulness and other social anxiety programs. She called me a few weeks ago to say that her mother had died and that she wanted contributions to be made to the Monroe Branch Library. Since that time, we have been receiving donations in memory of her mother, Annette. Rhea and I have spoken about these donations. She and her family want this money to help supplement our food truck and our winter clothes basket. I have worked out a

procedure with the Foundation regarding the deposit, acknowledgement and use of these funds. We are so very grateful to Rhea and her family for these donations. This will be a huge help in supplementing our food truck and winter clothes basket.

- Below are pictures of our new hand rail. They did a terrific job in the design and placement of this railing. A patron stopped in the other day and said she wouldn't have come to the library if this handrail wasn't here. This is what prompted our need for this railing. Since the sidewalk slopes at this spot, people needed something to hold on to. This is a big improvement for this branch.



- Grant Ashley decided to build us a shelving unit as his final Eagle Scout project. This shelving unit made of oak houses all our free books, magazines and DVDs. Grant also volunteers periodically at the branch. He chose Monroe to volunteer and to do this project because of his affinity for Monroe. Grant and his brother grew up coming to the children's room. Grant participated in our summer reading programs and our Reader's Theater program. When he came back to volunteer here, I was just overwhelmed by how grown up and mature he had become. The fact that he had such good memories of his time spent in the children's room was so heartwarming.



Sully Branch, Marie Heeks-Heinlien reporting

Programs

- Children's Librarian Jennifer Nesbitt had a nice collaboration with Horizons at Warner at the end of Christmas break. We presented a Snuggle Up and Read program that allowed kids to join us for some book sharing, healthy snacks, and Lego giveaways. This was a great way to wind down from break and get ready to return to school.
- Our Dungeons & Dragons club has really taken off these past months. We've had a huge amount of interest in participating and strong retention of current players. Teens love the chance to step out of their skin and into another world within their own imaginations.
- We had a screening of PBS's show, No Passport Required. This program was brought to Sully by WXXI. They will present two additional screenings at different branch libraries this year. WXXI purchased food and had people here to discuss the show and various programming. Nancy John-Price from the City's Southeast Service Center was also present to answer any questions people had regarding city services. Participants received ten-dollar gift cards from Price Rite, and bus passes were also available for anyone that needed transportation. We had a full house, and the program received several positive verbal reviews by the attendees.

- Perhaps the best part of Dungeons & Dragons club is how it's turned some of our more reluctant teens into regulars here at the library and boosted their interactions with Mr. Jacob. One teen in particular, "M", will sadly be leaving us soon to move to NYC. He expressed to Mr. Jacob how he didn't want to leave the area, due in large part to the library and the second home it's been to him. He particularly talked about how Mr. Jacob had made his time at the library a lot of fun, and that he hoped he could find others to play Dungeons & Dragons with in NYC.
- Sully's book club met in January to discuss Trevor Noah's book, *Born a Crime*. The book was well received by the group, and the participants all said it opened their eyes to something new. During the meeting our discussion took a little detour to talk about book clubs in general. The participants said that they noticed book clubs are very popular right now, and that it is a good thing because the clubs help people to expand their reading horizons. After the meeting, one of the participants said "It doesn't matter how many people show up to the group, because we always have a good time. Make sure you write that in your notes, we always have a good time."

Anecdotes/Other

- I was talking to one of the children who is a regular visitor. She said this will be her last year at School #33, and next year she will be going to a new school. She then said "I don't care what school I go to next year. I am still going to come to this library, because life would be boring without this library."
- We received the final shipment of new furniture this month. A few of our adult patrons have already commented on how much better the new chairs are. They are more comfortable, and they make the adult area look even more inviting. We love these new chairs so much, and we will be purchasing the same ones for the Young Adult area if we get more money in the future. We send a big thank you to administration for providing the opportunity to purchase new furniture.
- In December, I was contacted by Cheryl Robinson. Ms. Robinson is very active in this community and is often a cheerful presence in the library. She was contacted by Officer Adam Johnson from the Rochester Police Department about a bike give away. Ms. Robinson put Officer Johnson and I in contact with each other so we could come up with three children he could give a free bike to. Carmen Gonzales and I came up with the names of three children, and we contacted the parents to make sure we could give their contact information to Officer Johnson. All three children received their free bikes in January. One of the parents said her son was very happy to receive a free bike, and he was even happier that it was dropped off to him by an officer from the Rochester Police Department. It is amazing what community members and various city departments can accomplish when we all work together!
- A teenager that used to come into the library every day when she was younger, stopped into the library one day this month. She has not been here in a few years and said that she came in with someone and wanted to say hi to all the staff. She is currently a sophomore in High School, and she said that she has been too busy to come into the library even though she misses everyone. She told me that she is the president of two clubs at school, president of her debate team, on the track and cross-country teams, and she is taking all AP classes. She also said that she is drawing a lot, and that she can draw so well thanks to the library. When she was younger, she would use many of the drawing books we had to teach herself how to draw.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

We had some creative crafts in the library this month. The children really like making art projects. Each time, they all try to make their project the fanciest.

Anecdotes

- Alexandra Haehn's story time program at both School #20 and School #2 are always changing in attendance. For the past two weeks, she brought her puppet snowball. He is a white cat that she has had since she was a child. The children absolutely love him, and they keep telling her in all four classrooms that she has to bring him back again. They have also gotten very good at the rhymes and songs that they can sing them all by themselves without their teacher's help. One of the teachers told Haehn that they sing the songs over and over while they are playing. One child told Haehn that she sings the songs at home to her daddy.
- The Episcopal Home Senior book club met to discuss *A Zookeeper's Wife*. The group has decided to read the same book each month and discuss its literary merit. Seniors expressed their happiness over having a book club and discussed how much they enjoy being able to get together and discuss their love of reading.



Winton Branch, Kathy Wolfe Reporting

Programs

- School #46 held a parent engagement night here at the Winton Branch Library. Families were invited to come for a short meeting, pizza, and a book program. I entertained about 40 people; parents, children, and younger siblings with interactive books, stories and songs. A good time was had by all.
- Our adult book discussion group discussed Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. Most of the group agreed that, while a difficult read due to the subject matter, everyone took something away from it and appreciated the writing of Ms. Morrison. (Interestingly enough, *The Bluest Eye* was featured in our February pick *Dear America*.) The group chose this book because they wanted to read a "classic" and *The Bluest Eye* garnered the most votes.
- Adult Services featured two programs this month: Sustainable Homes and Introduction to Plant Nutrition. Sustainable Homes featured energy efficiency and ways you can improve your home's heating/cooling systems. We were approached by Sustainable Homes regarding hosting a program here. Four people attended. On January 27, we featured Introduction to Plant Nutrition, with 26 people attending. In addition to learning about how to eat a more plant-based diet, we had samples of vegan cheese, nut crackers and oil-free hummus. This program was very well received. We will be doing a follow-up program sometime in the spring based on the positive response.

Community Outreach/Meeting

Two members from the Census 2020 team spoke to us regarding what we need to know about this year's Census and how we can help our patrons. The information was helpful. We are in contact with the Census team about doing a workshop about how our patrons can work Part Time for the Census.

Selected Meetings & Outputs, January 20 – February 14 (Uttaro)

Standing Meetings

City Senior Management Team (weekly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)
Brie Harrison, Ana Suro, Tonia Burton, Christine Ridarsky, Adam Traub, Tolley Reeves –
one-to-one meetings (monthly)
FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)
MCLS Board President, Marjorie Shelly (monthly)
Deputy Mayor James Smith (monthly)

Other Meetings

ROC -SPIN (Summer Provider Integration Network) Meeting
Census 2020 New Americans Outreach
Arts & Cultural Council Board Meeting
Jeremy Cooney
Talking is Teaching conference call (with Tonia Burton; Sharon Phillips, DLD; and Susan Mitchell North
County Library System
Mayor Warren, Sandra Simon, Daniele Lyman-Torres – Roc the Future & Early Grade Literacy
Early Grade Literacy Outcome Team meeting
C.A.S.H. Press Conference
Summer Learning Conference
MCLS Directors Retreat
Play Walk: Next Steps, Urban Conga meeting
County Legislature Meeting
County Executive Adam Bello
Census Complete Count Committee
RPL/MCLS Finance Committee meeting
RPL Children's Librarians
Business Innovation Center Consultant Report with Jen Sertl
Several calls and meetings with MCLS member library directors

Email Activity

January 2020

Name	Send Actions	Receive Actions	Read Actions
Uttaro, Patricia	529	7386	3641
Traub, Adam	325	1293	1755
Reeves, Tolley	147	2536	250
Harrison, Brie	310	3634	1481