



**Rochester  
Public Library**  
More Than You Think



**Monroe County  
Library System**  
[www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org)

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TO: MCLS & RPL Boards of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: February 23, 2022  
SUBJECT: Joint Monthly Report – February 2022

## ***Joint Action Items***

### **Proposed FY23 Central Library Budget (Harrison & Uttaro)**

For the FY2022-23 fiscal year the Central Library faced an approximate \$250,000 gap, based on contractual wage and estimated salary increases (including new \$15 minimum wage). The gap was closed through new positions on revenue receipts, including a proposal for a 3% inflationary increase to be requested from Monroe County for Central Library support (\$212,300), minor increases in NYS aid (2%) and increases in system service revenues that reflect wage/salary cost increases.

Two new FT positions are proposed; one is grant-funded through 2023 (Business), the other (Security) is converted from a vacant PT position to reduce turnover. Including a shift of partial youth services reporting from Branches to Central, personnel is increased by 2.5 FTE positions. Details are provided in Board attachments.

Based on 2021 MCLS expenses under budgeted allocations, the projected MCLS fund balance is approximately \$370,000, 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 \$71,085, based on 1.5% of the MCLS 2022 budget.

The proposed budget was reviewed by the Joint Board Finance Committee on February 18<sup>th</sup>; the recommendation, on a 7-0 vote, was to submit the budget as reviewed and accepted by the committee.

We are continuing to revise the Central Library Program Aid budget, based on the new standards for Central aid from NYSED and evaluation of FY22 expenditures. A proposed FY23 budget for Central Aid use will be submitted for Board approval in the spring.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed 2022-23 Central Library Budget.

## ***MCLS Action Items***

None

## ***RPL Action Items***

### **Proposed FY23 Community Library Budget (Harrison & Lewis)**

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 \$689,200 was requested.

The reduction was met with a combination of reduced cash capital for annual allocations and programs, reduced professional services fees, a change in reporting of a position from Branch to Central, and proposed utilization of the library fund balance (\$175,000). Details are provided in Board attachments.

The RPL will advocate for change in title (Branch Manager) and increased pay (Bracket 20 to 22) for current Librarian II branch site supervisors, given additional duties in the areas of facilities and cash management as well as broader supervision is required for these positions compared to Librarian II positions elsewhere. Recommendations from the Library equity committee include an increment request to increase full-time support positions in Branch libraries. A full-time children's librarian position at the Maplewood Community Library is also advocated for in the event of increased state aid to municipalities. The proposed budget was reviewed by the Joint Board Finance Committee on February 18<sup>th</sup> and endorsed 3-0 by the RPL Finance Committee.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed 2022-23 Community Library Budget.

### **FFRPL Grant Acceptance (Uttaro)**

The Friends & Foundations of RPL manage a new, anonymous fund intended to provide annual payments to libraries in Monroe County and the five contiguous counties. These funds must be used to \*supplement\* but not replace existing materials funds and must be used to purchase English-language print and/or e-books that will circulate widely. The amount granted to each library is based on a rolling 3-year average of circulation statistics as reported annually to the New York State Division of Library Development. 2022 is the first year that these funds are distributed. This year, the RPL portion will be used to purchase e-content for the Overdrive collection.

Board Action Requested: Accept a grant from the Friends & Foundation of RPL for the purchase of English-language print and e-content materials in the amount of \$20,142.98.

### **Transfer of Periodicals to The Strong (Uttaro)**

Staff in the Acquisitions Department has worked with Division staff on reviewing the older periodical collections at Central and is recommending the transfer of the following children's titles to The Strong:

- American Boy, 1912-1929
- Interracial Books for Children Bulletin, 1985-1990
- Youth's Companion, 1885-1915

We believe these titles will be better placed for research purposes at The Strong. Cumulative estimated value is \$4,807. While the collections could be transferred to FFRPL for sale, we believe a transfer to The Strong is the better option.

Board Action Requested: Approve the transfer of American Boy, Interracial Books for Children, and Youth's Companion to The Strong.

### **Professional Services Agreement, The Strong (Harrison)**

The most recent extension of the library services agreement for The Strong ended December 31st. 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. Current services include one day of delivery per week. The Strong maintains their own collections and equipment, including self-check units recommended by the RPL.

The new agreement maintains the same terms as previous with a three-year duration and options for extension. Charges total \$4,907 for the upcoming year; the remaining two years of the three-year

contract will be tied to the same inflationary increases as the MCLS member library cost shares. This charge is incorporated as Central library revenue in the annual budget.

**Board Action Requested:** Approve a professional services agreement with The Strong National Museum of Play with terms, conditions and charges as described.

## **Report Items**

### **MCLS & RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting**

#### **Recommended Reading & Viewing**

- The Trauma of Library Work - <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/the-trauma-of-library-work>
- RMAPI Sets Policy Agenda for 2022 - <https://rochesterbeacon.com/2022/02/01/rmapi-sets-policy-agenda-for-2022/>
- New Bill Would Let City Councils Overrule Library (Iowa) - <https://iowastartingline.com/2022/02/11/new-bill-would-let-city-councils-overrule-local-library-limit-access-to-books/>
- Llano County (TX) Suspends Library Service - <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/hill-country/im-just-without-anything-now-llano-county-suspends-online-library-service/>
- Recent “Ask the Lawyer” Questions - <https://www.wnylrc.org/ask-the-lawyer/raqs>

#### **Urban Libraries Business Services Values Calculator Demonstration (Jennifer Byrnes)**

The Urban Libraries Council recently debuted a new tool — the Business Value Calculator — which will help libraries demonstrate their value to the local economy. Libraries can begin to estimate the impact of their business services and learn new ways to communicate their economic value to city/county leaders, community partners and other local stakeholders.

Developed by ULC’s Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses Action Team and inspired by St. Louis County Library’s Small Business Value Calculator, this new tool helps libraries concretely estimate the value they provide to their local business community. Using this calculator can help libraries of all sizes power-up their “elevator pitch” to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

In early 2022, ULC piloted the Business Value Calculator with 10 member libraries. The savings figures reported topped millions of dollars for a year of business services. These figures are sizable even as several library systems were forced to redesign service during the COVID-19 pandemic, losing the ability to offer co-working services or structured in-person programming and classes.

Social Media

January	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	811	770	347	39	0	20	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	14 (2,060)	14 (2,227)	18 (5,668)	-	37 (843)	8 (2,037)	13 (334)
Engagements	73	28	1,560	49	135	331	78
Check In/ Mentions	5	29	-	-	-	21	-
Post Reach	4,582	2,759	21,138	2,079	-	5,552	73,830
Video/Story Views	-	-	1240	-	-	0	1369
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	2	-	-	22	-

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central / RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)

- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 4,180
- Click through – 225

New subscribers – 3

New Card Holders Welcome Emails (6 sent)

- Total opened newsletters – 972
- Click through – 60

OverDrive November/ December

- Total Checkouts- 82,045
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 735
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 5,045
- SORA Checkouts- 1,064

***MCLS Member Libraries***

***Interim Associate Director Jen Lenio reporting***

Brighton Memorial Library has a new Board member, and their Friends February Booksale will take place February 17-21.

Chili Public Library has a new DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) committee.

East Rochester has completed renovations to their Book Nook book store, including new shelves and paint. They also have a new 3D printer purchased with bullet aid.

Gates Public Library is working on a Frederick Douglass education project with County Legislator Frank Allkofer and Michelle Daniels, related to the work being done at the airport. Gates Friends are planning a book sale in March.

Greece Public Library has seen an increase in attendance since the new children's room opened.

Henrietta Public Library held a Rochester Works job fair that was well attended.

Irondequoit Public Library recently unveiled a new mural done by local artist Shawn Dunwoody.



Newman Riga Two very longtime trustees retired and there will be a dinner for them. Their three new trustees are a good fit.

Ogden is currently looking for a communications and technical assistant.

Parma has a new tween book club.

Penfield Public Library has a new director, Rhonda Rossman, who started February 8.

Pittsford Community Library is currently hiring for a new librarian; two part-time librarians have been promoted to full-time. They hope to be fully staffed by March.

Seymour Library is back open 53 hours/week now. They held a Harry Potter pop up event.

Webster Public Library is offering AARP tax preparation appointments and exploring going fine free for children's and teen materials within the next year.

## **MCLS Office Updates**

### **Interim Associate Director Jen Lenio reporting**

#### Programs

The Monroe County Library System wrapped up the 2021-22 Reading Power Play Program with the Rochester American's Hockey team. Due to guidelines set by the National Hockey League this year, the series had to be presented virtually, with member libraries teaming up to co-host seven different virtual programs between November and January. During each event, program participants heard a story from one of the Amerks Hockey Players, learned about the game of hockey and player uniforms, participated in a Q & A session, and played hockey trivia for a chance to win prizes. After each program, Alicia Gunther collected prizes (6-7 hockey sticks) from the Amerks Administrative offices and had them sent to member libraries via our shipping department. In total, the system sent out 35 hockey sticks to member libraries for patrons to pick up. 139 children along with their parents attended the seven virtual programs, representing 23 different libraries. During the program series, kids could also enter to win tickets to an upcoming game by reading three age-appropriate books and filling out a "Hat Trick" entry form. The system received 186 entry forms and brought them over to the Amerks, who will pick two winners, one from the k-5<sup>th</sup> grade entries and a winner from the 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade entries.

#### Annual Report

The State Annual Report portal opened for member libraries on January 25. Gunther worked with Jane Minotti from the New York State Library Division of Library Development throughout January, assisting with test runs of the portal to catch any errors with the software or report sections. Gunther also assisted with reviewing the instructions and new questions to clarify potential areas of confusion.

Former Associate Director Adam Traub had worked with Gunther to create an Excel workbook that includes all the data fields required for the state annual report, along with step-by-step instructions and interpretations of the data to assist the towns in filling in their annual report information. This new workbook was distributed to the towns in January. Greece Public Library Director Cassie Guthrie said:

*"This spreadsheet is extremely helpful and will save me (and I'm sure others) a good amount of time. Thank you!"*

#### OverDrive

Gunther continued to check hold lists and title recommendations received by the system. 110 titles were added to the collection, and 924 Cost Per Circ units were purchased based on Patron Requests, waiting lists for titles, and upcoming expiring titles in the system's Overdrive collection. Gunther continued to focus efforts on the management of holds to reduce the wait time on titles in the shared collection.

In January the MCLS office launched Great Courses, available system-wide through the Libby app. During January, 218 patrons checked out one-week access passes to Great Courses. Great Courses will continue to be available systemwide as a trial run for all of 2022.

### **Outreach, Amy Discenza reporting**

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Corrections Support: Outreach staff continue to partner with the Educational Coordinator at the Monroe County Jail and the Assistant Deputy Superintendent for Programs at Rochester Correctional Facility to distribute periodicals to inmates and build a recreational reading library at Monroe County Jail.

- In lieu of providing in-person programming at Monroe County Jail this month, Outreach staff compiled library marketing materials for incarcerated individuals.
- Discenza spoke, via Zoom, to a group of seven from Pathstone's Employment Focused Services Program about various library services from the educational (TASC, computer classes, JIC, Business Innovation Center) to the entertaining (Hot Spot lending, digital library services, programming, VIP & Empire passes). Her presentation also included information about upcoming library events and highlighted exceptional databases such as Udemy and Creativebug. The Employment Focused Services Program serves individuals (18+) on probation and who are court-referred. 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.
- Outreach staff assembled and delivered to St. John's Meadows a micro collection of library materials celebrating African American lives and history.

### Anecdotes/Other

- Valley Manor, one of roughly 30 senior living facilities participating in Outreach's micro collection lending program, reported that their resident volunteers must lock the library door while they unbox their new loans to keep out eager residents until the items are ready to circulate.
- Darnell Rhodes, Reentry Coordinator at Delphi Rise, complimented the department on a useful webpage for reentry resources and thanked us for including their information on website/hard copy packets.
- Outreach Coordinator sent out an email to the MCLS email group to highlight the recent overhaul of the department's Making Moves reentry packet and to give colleagues a brief overview of our services. We thought we'd share some of the responses we received:
  - In addition to the Brighton (PIRS, Partners in Reading to Seniors) and Fairport (FROST, Friends Reader Outreach Service Team) Libraries, we learned that the Friends of the Chili Public Library run a home delivery service called [Books to People](#).
  - One colleague suggested that it's time to retire the "shut-in" card type for a term that is more compassionate. Outreach staff concur and will put out feelers to see how this might be achieved.
  - Outreach staff received an invitation to speak about the department at an upcoming staff training at the Mendon Library.
  - Lastly, a few colleagues were simply happy to have a department contact and reached out to us with various questions.

## **Central Library Updates**

### ***Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting***

CASH (Creating Assets, Savings & Hope) started their tax preparation season on January 24. Leading up to that, Cynthia Dana worked with Corinne Clar and Lacie White (CASH) ensuring they had proper signage. We also worked with Facilities to reconfigure some extra space for them to use for volunteers. Due to COVID, they want to maintain social distancing as much as possible.

## **Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting**

### Programs

- Hilary Bluestein-Lyons taught a two-part class called “You’ve Written a Script - Now What?” that guided the participants through the process of finding someone to produce scripts for stage or screen. Among the comments from students were:

*“Hilary told us about a very good resource that we might want to sign up for (New Play Exchange). I had never heard of this group, but it is a perfect source for what I do. Also, Hilary gave us pointers on writing an Artist’s Statement. I had never thought to do this before but I’m glad Hilary brought it up because it helped me to clarify what kind of writer I want to be and why. Hilary also provided many sources to explore for getting my work produced. This was a wonderful class. So glad I took it because I got some valuable resources and information.”*

One participant valued the class because it showed her that she does not want to be a writer!

*“In short, I learned this was going to be too hard for me...I was exploring this for something to do in retirement...I applaud the library for offering this class because it didn’t cost me anything to find out this was not for me. Hooray for the library! I’m sure it helped the others who were there because she was very knowledgeable.”*

- Taste of Punjab - Patrons enjoyed a fun night virtually with Chef Raj Singh Khosa, owner of Tandoor of India in Fairport, for a demonstration on preparing traditional Punjabi dishes. Attendees watched Khosa prepare Palak Paneer—Spinach and Indian Cheese, Chicken Tikka Masala, and Masala. All who attended received the recipes to make these dishes at home and they also enjoyed watching Khosa demonstrate tandoor cooking, which is cooking in a clay oven. This cooking demonstration also highlighted the exhibit currently on display in the Anthony Mascioli Gallery, *Punjab: Land of Five Rivers* in the Rundel Building (through March 5) (Education & Engagement)

## **Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting**

### Statistics

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 4 in person, 14 by email, 0 by mail, 4 by phone
- Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 0
- Webpage views: 61
- Hours of in-depth market research: 51
- Tracy Jong appointments: 1.5 hours, 3 individuals served

### Database Use

- Frost & Sullivan: Downloads 4; Value: \$19,800
- IBISWorld: Page Views 95; Value \$29,345
- InnovationQ: Logins 8; Searches 47
- PitchBook: Logins 21
- Statista: Logins 15

### Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Jennifer Byrnes was appointed to the Mayor’s Cannabis Business Preparation Team. Her focus will be on education around licensure and supporting legacy market participants with the information they need to operate legally. Byrnes and Melissa Cobo attended two orientation meetings for the



Resource Partner Enhancement Program, the name of the program associated with the Small Business Administration grant through Rochester Economic Development Corporation.

- Byrnes and Cobo attended a meeting for the legacy market at the Armory. Byrnes presented at two additional meetings for the legacy market, one for growers and one for distributors. Cobo presented to the Union Street Professionals Meeting, a networking group for small business owners in Spencerport.

### Anecdotes

The Business Insight Center was one of 100 libraries in the US selected by the American Library Association and the Financial Industry Regulatory Administration Foundation to receive an Inclusive Financial Literacy Programming Kit for children, developed by a team of librarian advisors in collaboration with ALA and the FINRA Foundation, with corresponding best practices and programming ideas for public and school libraries. Contents include: One copy of *Rainy Day Ready: Financial Literacy Programs and Tools* edited by Melanie Welch and Patrick Hogan for the ALA Public Programs Office (ALA Editions, 2020), a ready-to-use guide for library staff with 16 model financial capability programs, and one print copy of five books from the book list for libraries to add to their circulating collection.

### ***Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting***

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Tonia Burton facilitated Talking is Teaching Talk, Read, Sing trainings and meetings with community partners. Burton is introducing the Talk, Read, Sing Greater Rochester Campaign to local organizations interested in joining and then training the staff interested in becoming Trusted Messengers for the campaign which aims to give parents and caregivers information on talking, reading, and singing daily with their children. (Strategic Priority #1 Education and Engagement)
- Katie Powell and Burton met with Susan Coyle and Evan Lowenstein from Monroe County 4-H Youth Development Save the Snowpeople, a challenge that encourages families to get active throughout the winter via outdoor explorations and activities in Monroe County Parks. Powell shared the Nature Backpacks she created and facilitated sending forms and information to all member libraries. This collaboration supports Education and Engagement by promoting educational experiences in the community.
- Burton compiled information for the Roc the Future Survey from branches and Central. Low turnout has led to extending the survey period. Roc the Future hopes to reach 6000 families by June.

#### Raising A Reader

All of the Raising A Reader sites had closures during the month of January due to COVID. The pandemic continues to put a lot of stress on our childcare sites and getting any feedback is a challenge. At a national Raising A Reader check-in Rebecca Armstrong shared that this is the case everywhere. To reach families who are home, Margarita Chaves created At Home Storytime bags. Each family received a book with activities. Teachers were sent a virtual story time that they shared through their Seesaw app.

#### Anecdotes/Other

Before we had to discontinue programming, one patron was very excited to finally be able to play the switch game with Nadia Morels and others quickly joined in.

### ***Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting***

#### Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments – 4
- New Borrowers – 159
- RRLC Access Cards Issued – 6
- Notarial Acts – 96

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Jim Montione was called over to assist a patron with the copier. The patron was upset and abrupt. Montione helped the patron patiently, making sure that the patron's copies were correct and that her questions were answered. The patron thanked Montione for his patience and assistance and has since been very friendly towards the staff.
- Melisa Miranda has been assisting a patron, translating for her when she comes in to use the library. The patron doesn't speak English and always looks for Miranda when she comes in. Miranda helps the patron navigate library policy and procedure, providing good customer service and familiarity.
- With the increased number of Covid cases due to the Omicron variant, there has been an uptick in the number of patrons calling to explain that they can't come to the library because they are in quarantine. Patrons are always pleased that the libraries of MCLS are proactive in extending loans and forgiving fines for patrons experiencing pandemic-related issues.

### ***Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting***

The Local History & Genealogy Division welcomed back Courtney Felton, the City Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP) employee placed with us last summer. Felton will continue to work with Jordan Wallance to file and organizing an extensive backlog of the newspaper clippings collection. A senior at Penfield High School, Felton will be with the division until her graduation in June.

#### Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The monthly *Mourning in the Morning* series, presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, featured a talk by Dennis Carr on "The Rochester Riot of 1872," providing a rare view of ethnic and racial relations in 19th-century Rochester. To watch, visit: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR9CqPVAZa4&list=PLzEBIzX1XFJLebwaUF-QZ\\_xJAtgdz\\_HN&index=31](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR9CqPVAZa4&list=PLzEBIzX1XFJLebwaUF-QZ_xJAtgdz_HN&index=31).
- The monthly *Rochester's Rich History* series featured a talk by James Odato, biographer of disability rights activist Lucy Gwin, who established *Mouth* magazine to advocate for what she called the largest minority group in the United States. The talk, "Unearthing a Life: Lucy Gwin and the Fight for Disability Rights," told the story of Gwin's fight for social justice through her magazine, civic action, advocacy for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and more. Soon available to watch on YouTube.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Ridarsky continues to co-chair (with Kathryn Murano Santos of the Rochester Museum & Science Center) the Education Subcommittee of the Monroe County Airport Renaming Advisory Committee. The group is tasked with developing content for a permanent exhibit in the Observation Deck at the recently renamed Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport. The county has

applied for funding for the project from New York State, which, if awarded, will allow the exhibit development project to begin in earnest this spring.

- Ridarsky met at the airport with Monroe County legislators Sabrina LaMar and Frank Allkofer, Gates Public Library Director Anna Souannavong, and Michelle Daniels, executive director of the new Daniels Democracy & Community Foundation, to discuss ways the Gates library can honor and promote the Frederick Douglass family legacy in its facility and tie in with the exhibit being planned at the airport.
- Ridarsky continues to represent the city and the library on the advisory board and oral history subcommittee for the Memorial Art Gallery's AIDS poster exhibit, opening in March. She and Fess also continued to meet regularly with the committee planning this year's Rainbow Dialogues, which will be held at the MAG on March 19. The event is free, but preregistration is required: <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/8432715>.

### Digital Projects

- Fess created a Community Webs collection on the final year of Mayor Lovely Warren's administration and the installation of James Smith as interim mayor. This collection includes news coverage of the legal issues that faced the Warren administration throughout 2021. It also gathers biographical coverage of Smith, whose long career in Rochester politics and status as Rochester's first openly gay mayor will be of importance to the historical record.
- Ridarsky, Fess, and Finn are involved in a multilibrary project, under the leadership of the Rochester Regional Library Council and Northern New York Library Council, to create an experimental statewide digital asset management system (DAMS) using the Archipelago DAMS software developed by the METRO NY library council. The system is known as ESDAM (Empire State Digital Asset Management). This month's work consisted of preliminary meetings (via Zoom) and planning for materials that will be uploaded to ESDAM starting in February.

### *Rochester Voices*

Finn added another lesson to the Erie Canal for the Classroom unit for fourth graders in the Classroom Connections section of *Rochester Voices*. This unit now has 11 lessons and two teacher guides, which can be viewed at <http://www.rochestervoices.org/lesson-plan/erie-canal-for-the-classroom/>.

### Office of the City Historian

- Ridarsky continued to supervise the work of a consultant and an intern who are conducting a comprehensive inventory of urban renewal records in the Municipal Archives/Records Center. Due to staff shortages in the City's Information Technology's Department, which manages the City's Records Center, this has required Ridarsky to work away from the library three days per week. The work will be completed by the end of February.
- Ridarsky spent several days sorting through material that was transferred to the City's Records Center at the end of Mayor Warren's term. Most of it was non-records material with no historical value. Ridarsky worked with Constance Jefferson in the City's Purchasing Department to pack items for transfer to the former mayor and/or surplus. A small amount of non-records material with historical significance will be transferred to the Office of City Historian and/or the Local History & Genealogy Division for preservation. Records will be retained in the Municipal Archives per New York State records retention laws.

### Social Media

There were two new posts to the *Local History ROCs!* blog that reached 80 people in January: “Rochester Advertising Cards of the Late Nineteenth Century” by Dan Cody, and “Come Together: The Eventful Life of Blind Freedom Rider Norma Wagner” by Emily Morry, who also edits the blog. In addition to these posts, readers revisited 142 previously published posts this month. The most popular post continues to be “A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore ‘Sammy G’ Gungello” (122 views). “Kool Things: The History of the J. Hungerford Smith Company” also remains popular (46 views), as does “Chasin’ the Past Pt. 4: Last Jazz Clubs of Rochester” (52 views), “Down on the Corner: Taverns & Transformations in the Bull’s Head Neighborhood” (36 views), and “Out of the Loop: A Before & After Look at the Neighborhoods of the Inner Loop, Pt. 1” (31 views). All posts can be read online at [www.rochistory.wordpress.com](http://www.rochistory.wordpress.com).

### Interns/Volunteers

- Volunteer Kaye Knoll returned to the division to continue processing the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club records. Knoll contributed 2.5 hours in January.
- Volunteer Noeme Liestman continued inventorying posters, prints, and broadsides, rehousing several items that were damaged and/or fragile. Liestman anticipates finishing this project by April. She contributed 7.5 hours this month.
- A new volunteer and former intern, Linda Lopata, joined the City Historian’s Office in January. Lopata will be rehousing and cataloging items collected at the Susan B. Anthony gravesite on Election Day 2016. Lopata contributed 9 hours in January.
- A new intern joined the division in January. Zachary Vila came to us through the Center for Local History at SUNY Geneseo, where he is studying to be a social studies teacher. Vila will be arranging and describing collections of invitations and music/theater programs during his 150-hour internship. He contributed 6 hours this month.

### Anecdotes

- Morry helped a patron from Croatia locate a cousin currently living in Massachusetts. The patron was very grateful and replied to Morry via email: “My friend librarian was right that only a librarian could help me in this case.”
- Fess provided an impromptu tour of special collections for a couple who had approached the Friends & Foundation (Jason asking if it could be arranged as a Christmas gift for his history-loving significant other, Jenny). Fess happily obliged, showing examples of several kinds of special collections objects. The couple donated \$240 to the Friends & Foundation in appreciation for the tour; they also spoke of having friends with similar interests, and the goodwill engendered could ultimately prove valuable.

### Upcoming Events/Programs

- Mourning in the Morning will conclude its season with Sarah Johnson’s talk, “Abelard Reynolds and America’s First Indoor Mall,” on March 12 at 10:30AM (via Zoom).
- The 5th Annual Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues, “The AIDS Crisis in Rochester: A Community Responds,” will be on March 19 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM at the Memorial Art Gallery.

### **Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting**

In January, RMC rented 7 pieces of equipment and 296 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection for a grand total of 3,999 items or 25% of the Central Library's total circulation of 14,191 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC totaled 8,873 circulations.

#### Database Use

##### Hoopla

- Circulation
  - Audiobooks –967
  - Binge Pass – 30
  - Comics –112
  - eBooks –399
  - Movies/TV –282
  - Music –55
  - Total Circulation –1845
- Users
  - New users – 59
  - Patrons using all 7 borrows – 120 (24%)
  - Total users – 501
- Cost
  - Total \$3,892.87
  - Per item –\$2.10

#### Anecdotes/Other

- As of 1/31/22 RMC has 231 of 320 Mi-Fi units still in circulation. 76 are overdue (5-30 days) & 13 are lost/stolen.
- Looking at the circulation of Music CDs, while 478 circulated from RMC during the month of January, another 749 more titles circulated through the router/holds for pick up at other libraries.
- Diane Premo had her review of the audiobook "About Time" by David Rooney published in Audiofile Magazine January 2022 issue (<https://www.audiofilemagazine.com/reviews/Read/208051>)

### **Science and History, Darlene Richards reporting**

#### Programs

- Gabe Pellegrino hosted "Incredible India" featuring historian/author/travel writer/journalist David Mould, to coincide with the current display in the Rundel building. Mould is a very entertaining speaker and there are always several questions from attendees. Additional promotion through FFRPL and Graphics have helped to make people aware of the many India-related programs Central is offering during the exhibit. (Education and Engagement)
- This month's Got Health? Program "Cervical Cancer: Know the Risk. Factors and Screening Options." We promote this monthly recorded presentation which is posted by the University of Rochester and then we share it through the Central Library's Facebook page.

#### Got Health Talk Statistics:

255 people reached

9 total engagements (2 shares, 7 likes)  
44 15-second video views

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

Darlene Richards assisted two people, both the president and another board member, with looking for grants for the Caledonia Library. Richards sent several resources to them including information about Candid and the Foundation Directory Online essential. She also pulled out several books from the Grants Resource Center on searching for grants for libraries. They both were very appreciative of it and plan to come back to search the database again. They spent approximately three hours at the library learning everything there is to know about grants.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Tax Season—Science/History is partnering once again with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Facilitated Self Assistance Tax Assistance Program. Like last year, the program will be conducted virtually. Flo Morris is working with Mary Royce to update our web page and distribute information throughout MCLS.
- Gabe Pellegrino received a telephone reference call on January 31. The patron had originally contacted us through chat and was referred to our division. The patron resided in Yonkers, NY and was looking for Civil Service materials for a Paralegal exam. Despite calls to her local Civil Service Office, she still did not get what she needed. Her online searches led her to discover that our Central Library had a large collection of materials, so she contacted us. Pellegrino asked if she had contacted her local libraries, which she had not. Pellegrino searched the unified Westchester County libraries catalog, and helped the patron locate the pertinent titles spread out in several branches. In addition, he found some of the relevant materials as online documents. The patron was thrilled at the efforts and customer service she was given from our Central Library, far away from home.
- LROC stats—30 clients were assisted.

#### ***Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting***

- The most significant event in January was the selection of Judy Schewe to replace Brian DiNitto. Schewe has worked at several libraries in the area and has returned to Central. Her background in assisting patrons with technology is strong and her work in library administration will be a real asset for the team. The most important thing she brings to the team is a combination of genuine concern for our patrons and her extraordinary efficiency and time management. Her fit with the rest of the staff was obvious from the first day she joined the team.
- This month a patron came into the Technology Center and needed help updating his resume. After helping him with his resume, the patron asked for some assistance with filling out an application for Wegmans. He was very excited to see they were “urgently” hiring for the Brooks Avenue warehouse and were even offering a modest signing bonus. Once he started the application, he was able to fill in most of the information himself and we helped him with the process as he went along. After submitting the application, he returned the next day, saying that Wegmans had emailed him requesting an interview through Microsoft Teams and could we help him with that. We booked him into one of our private conference rooms for the interview. We got him plugged into Teams without any problem he commented later that his interview went well. A week or so later, he dropped back to let us know that he had gotten the job in the warehouse and wanted to thank us again for all the help we gave him.

- A patron approached the desk one morning. She had been observing staff as they interacted with our usual patrons. Many patrons have obvious mental or behavioral issues, and some are very candid with staff about this. On this day one of our customers was having difficulty while they were trying to navigate the process of getting support from a governmental social services provider. Staff helped calm the patron and helped them refocus on her mission. The patron observing this came to the desk and identified herself as a retired social worker. She complimented the staff on their resiliency and gentleness in working with our very animated patron. She commented that the staff were handling patrons just the way a competent social worker would, with kindness and empathy. This underscores the nature of the work that is routinely done in the Technology Center: one part tech support, two parts education, and two parts human services all mixed with a giant helping of professionalism and basic human decency. Being part of this group of people is justifiably something to be proud of.

### ***Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting***

#### Programs

- The Python coding program had good attendance in January. The engaged learners use the Teen Central Google Drive. In addition to reviewing the course content, they contribute code and share information and resources with other learners.
- The Crochet 'n' Chat program is also going well. Teens have learned how to crochet 1:1 or via Zoom and some have finished their first or second project. They seem to enjoy crocheting while talking and socializing.
- Pop-up chess lessons were given where one youth would teach the other youth basic information like the routes the pieces can move and some historical chess plays.
- Video Production – January was an extremely busy month for video production in the lab. There were three music videos, two lyric/music videos, one film intro, and one Digie contest intro made this month. Check them all out here:

[https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jeffery\\_bostic\\_libraryweb\\_org/EhXPjmn\\_YqpCgCE2qyqarLIBDxAyLFAFwZEJCAjm8Y7EOA?e=MKjezM](https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EhXPjmn_YqpCgCE2qyqarLIBDxAyLFAFwZEJCAjm8Y7EOA?e=MKjezM)

- Music Studio - Although we did not have studio certification this month our teens have been utilizing the studio to make great music and instrumentals that will be entered into the Digie Media Festival. You can look at this group celebrating with Instagram videos after finishing a new hit song:

[https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jeffery\\_bostic\\_libraryweb\\_org/EX6z7C3VOfbOmY9ynS6\\_u8cBTbUY4GUX315NIBgpUZsFaw?e=sVhLsn](https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EX6z7C3VOfbOmY9ynS6_u8cBTbUY4GUX315NIBgpUZsFaw?e=sVhLsn)

- Glow Forge- This month the Glow Forge was used for late Christmas gifts like these:



#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Faezah Jahanshiri attended the webinar "Program Planning Made Easy" offered by the Central New York Library Resources Council. It was very helpful.
- Jahanshiri has applied for the code4lib diversity scholarship to attend this year's conference in Buffalo, NY.
- Banks attended Our Role as Collecting Organizations: Antiracism, Inclusion, and Making Sense of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Justice in our Field, hosted by Action for a Better Community.
- Banks has communicated with Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHA) and Center for Youth representatives for upcoming assistance with a panel discussion concluding a ZOOM viewing of the documentary *Pier Kids*. Banks and Diane Premo are working together to present the documentary and discussion.

### **Community Library Updates**

**Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting**

During January the pause on in-person programming continued while Covid numbers remained elevated. Branch staff continued to be creative, hosting virtual book groups, story times and other fun activities. Most branches facilitated "take and make" craft activities and classes for English language learners were held online. With foot traffic decreased during this time, staff gave extra attention to those who visited. One on one attention was given to children who visited, and families experienced focused attention during their stay.



### **Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting**

#### Programs

- Programing ceased on December 2, 2021, in accordance with a Rochester Public Library directive. The directive did not include the Literacy Volunteers of Rochester visits or the Monroe County Health Department COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Both of those programs continued and were very much appreciated by library patrons.
- Members of the 1st Tuesday Book Club sponsored an encore to the very successful book give-away project the library and the club ran last year. This year, in addition to books for babies, toddlers, children, tweens, and teens, the book club purchased books for new and expecting parents. The books were delivered by Hipocampo Children's Books to the library in late January. Kids and their grownups are having a lot of fun selecting their books. The give-away will continue in February.



### **Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams Reporting**

#### Programs

Karen Duff reported the Food for Thought book discussion of *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean was a successful virtual program

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Kevin was the only patron in the building on a bitterly cold morning. He is Bronx born and raised, a larger-than-life veteran who has never met a stranger. This morning Kevin needed help assembling some paperwork to apply for housing. Heather Sessler helped him retrieve the required forms from his phone and print them. Meanwhile, Kevin and Yamilet Torres spoke about their families down in the Bronx and he told stories about keeping warm while serving in Germany ("where it's really cold") by drinking "antifreeze" (gin). Heather told him that it was nice to see him and thanked him for stopping in and livening up the place. He replied sincerely, "That means a lot. Some places I go people see me coming and say, 'Oh no, here comes Kevin!'" The Charlotte Branch aims to be a place where everyone feels welcome and appreciated.
- Regular patron David McDonald brought his young grandson Frankie into the library for the first time. David was eager to take him upstairs to the children's room to play, but Frankie was enthralled with the adult collection and kept exclaiming, "The books are nice! The books are nice!" Frankie had a blast upstairs and took home a 3-D printed T-Rex.



**Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting**

Anecdotes/Other

- Nine 6th grade students from Nativity middle school arrived at the library to borrow books and received recommendations from Isaac Lewis and Lauren DelGaizo. Staff watched them run eagerly to the door and now receive holds for them daily!
- Toddler Caleb visits on a regular basis and enjoys reading with staff members when he's in the library. When he first started to visit a book only held his attention for the first 3 or 4 pages. Now he listens for the entire book – sometimes twice!



**Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting**

Programs

- Lincoln Branch offered a Hot Cocoa Mug Craft Take N' Make Kit program [Rochester Public Library's Strategic Priority: Education & Engagement]
- Matt Seidel and Tashara Martinez began receiving the new toys for the Toy Library ordered as part of a new collaboration with the Parents Helping Parents organization and Daystar.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- On January 20, Liz Kurz joined the School of the Arts Gender and Sexuality Alliance to discuss queer literature and the role of libraries at providing a safe and accessible third place specifically to teens within the LGBTQIA+ community who have limited spaces to express feelings and needs. This included creating an informal and incomplete guide to books with queer themes within the Lincoln Teen collection, a walkthrough of the role of libraries as well as the locations of Central and the branches, and a guide on how to access and use Libby for teens that may not be able to safely read physical materials with queer themes without being outed to their family.

**Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco**

Programs

- Children and parents always get excited about the take-home activity treats from the Little Chef Cooking Club! Everyone really liked the Marshmallow Snowflake and could not wait to work on it at home! All the kits were distributed very quickly.



- Lyell has a great reading incentive called Lyell Loyalty Rewards that allows participants to collect a prize after 5 visits to the library. One child worked diligently checking items out each week so she could earn her reward. Her mom sent this picture saying, “She is having a blast with her prize!”
- Shamika Fusco created a wellness packet called Scribbles & Sketches. The packet includes a monthly calendar, coloring sheets, crossword puzzles, word search worksheets, as well as financial or health info sheets. The packets will be distributed every month.
- Manju Sharma is trying to develop some cooking habits in the teens, so she decided to give a simple five-ingredients recipe card for them to make granola bars in celebration of national granola bar day. Some of them picked up both and enjoyed a fun snack in the library.



#### Anecdotes/Other

- A mom and dad came in to use the computer, so Stanton brought their 3-year-old twins over to the children's area to read and play. The children worked on crafts, colored, played in the kitchen area, worked with manipulatives, and took home the Marshmallow Snowflake activity. The mom was so grateful for the assistance that she asked to come back. The mom was given a tour and overview of library services. She also signed up for a library card for herself and the twins and then checked out materials.
- A mom of a ninth-grade daughter came to the teen area and talked to the teen librarian about her daughter not wanting to go back to school because her classmates are bullying her and asking personal questions. She does not have internet access at home, so she wants to come to the library every day and use the computer. Sharma said she can use a teen computer to complete her class work during open hours and participate in other programs offered by the teen librarian. She talked to the school's administration about her daughter getting bullied, so she pulled her out of school and let her do homeschooling. She was so happy to be going to use the library facilities and buildings.

#### ***Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting***

##### Programs

- The Monroe County Department of Health held a vaccination clinic in January.
- English as a new language and citizenship classes continue to be offered through Zoom. It's a mix of classes, one-to-one meetings, and group practice. The groups are conversation, writing, and a presentation group.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- A woman from Afghanistan was introduced to the library by a Keeping Our Promise volunteer. Keeping Our Promise is a volunteer group that provides resettlement assistance to those who helped the U.S. during the war. She has four children at home, including one who is three months old. Staff at Maplewood signed her up for a library card, checked out a MiFi to her card, and helped her set up her laptop for Zoom. The woman attends Zoom classes on English grammar and pronunciation taught by Brian DiNitto. Her sister also attends the class through Zoom from Sweden. That group on Zoom also includes a Russian woman living in Rochester. All students are progressing well in the Zoom class.

- A student in the citizenship class has been coming in for extra sessions to practice her English and writing skills in preparation for her citizenship exam. She was nervous about understanding some of the more difficult terms that are used in the examiner's questions, such as vigilante, non-combatant, and totalitarian. She passed her exam, and she is very relieved.

### ***Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting***

#### Programs

- On Wednesdays, Matthew Hoople posted weekly story times to Monroe's Facebook Page. With no in-person programs, the focus of virtual story times was to increase "production value" with puppets and focusing more on the pages and pictures than of a person sitting and reading.
- Hoople held another story time with Suzanne Kolodziej from the George Eastman Museum. This one focused on Ansel Adams. [These programs fall within the Strategic Plan of community education and engagement.]

#### Community Outreach

- We are working with the Southeast Area Coalition (SEAC) to help set-up a tool lending library on University Ave. The Monroe Branch is a collection site for new or used tools. The location of this tool lending library is 1255 University Ave., lower level.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Hoople dyed his hair purple because a child asked him to. A few weeks later a different child saw Hoople's purple hair and commanded he do blue next. Blue hair dye will soon be purchased.
- A first grader came into the library with his mother. The child seemed dejected and didn't want any of the books that the mother recommended, so Hoople asked the child what kind of topics he was interested in. The child admitted to being a huge Star Wars fan. Hoople (after enjoying a thirty-minute lecture from a first grader about what different colors of lightsabers mean) was able to find him a few Star Wars books.

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

#### Programs

Last summer, children made bird feeders for the library. The feeders were hung out in the trees at the front of the library building so that patrons can watch the birds have a snack. Some bird visitors include red-bellied woodpeckers, blue jays, cardinals, sparrows, and chickadees. Pictures of bird friends are posted on Wheatley's Facebook page. [RPL Priorities #1 Education and Engagement: promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse population]



#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

Sheilah Murphy met with Tiffany Owens from the Southwest Area Neighborhood Association, and Eron Damercy from the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Owens and Damercy would like to collaborate with the library to create a historical display at the Southwest Area Neighborhood Association Center (SWAN).

### Anecdotes/Other

- Patron Mr. Steel called to see if he could use the meeting room. After further discussion, it was established that he wanted a place for his teenage daughter to practice for a dance audition. Since it would just be one person using the room, permission was granted. Michele Saccente and Lori Frankunas helped the daughter with moving the tables so she would have space to dance and Saccente struck up a conversation with the young lady. When she finished using the room, the teen thanked staff for helping her and staff wished her luck with her audition. The next day Mr. Steel called the branch manager to compliment the staff, saying his daughter found the Phillis Wheatley Library to be a warm and welcoming place and was grateful to have found such a nice place for her to practice.
- Alex Haehn is a proficient knitter and has been knitting hats and scarves to put in the Food Shelf cupboard for patrons to take. A patron came in with one of the hats on, thanked Haehn for making them, and said the service is very helpful to those in need.

### ***Sully Branch Library –Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting***

#### Programs

- Tonia Burton made some connections with local day care centers and was asked to have some story time recordings ready for their young students. Jennifer Nesbitt was one of the creative Rochester Public Library staff members who created videos to share with some of these centers. Thanks to Burton's and Nesbitt's efforts, Sully can continue literacy efforts virtually.
- Jacob Bigelow continued to work with teenagers on a one-on-one basis with Sully Chess Nights. Chess is a popular activity with patrons of all ages, and Bigelow is always willing to help teach patrons the game.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- A patron visited the library to pick up some items. He works in the food service industry and mentioned he is often around people who do not wear masks (you cannot wear a mask while eating), so he tries to limit further exposure by cutting down on trips to the grocery store. He said that a few months ago he picked up a bread cookbook from the Sully branch and he then decided to purchase a bread maker. He has been using the cookbook and bread maker to make bread to help him cut down on visits to the grocery store.
- One regular patron was having difficulties when the Rochester City School District pivoted to virtual learning. Her children all had devices but did not have internet access at home. She brought her children into the library to access the Wi-Fi, and staff assisted her in calling the school to see if there was a Wi-Fi unit for home use. The school did not have one but directed her to a location on the other side of the city. Since she does not have a car, obtaining that MiFi unit was not a possibility for her. Heeks-Heinlein called Joan Lee to discuss the need of a MiFi unit, and Lee delivered the unit to Sully within the hour. The patron was incredibly grateful to be able to have Wi-Fi service at home for her four school aged children. Heeks-Heinlein would like to thank Lee for assisting this patron on such short notice.
- The new Sully desk calendar has designated 1/28 as "Have Fun at Work Day." Heeks-Heinlein surprised the Sully staff with a wheel of fun to spin and win prizes throughout the day. Thanks to Heeks-Heinlein for making the library work environment so much FUN!! (Bigelow would like to add that it was a brilliant idea, and that Heeks-Heinlein made the workday fantastic and raised staff morale).
- A teen was asking Bigelow for information on some new video games and was excited to discover that Bigelow would be happy to order the games for the library at the request of the teen. The teen

returned the next day with a handwritten list of game suggestions and was overjoyed to learn that Bigelow would happily order all of them. The teen mentioned that it felt good to have his opinions listened to by the library, and specifically by an adult. Bigelow has an established policy of ordering patron requests “on demand” if the suggestions fall within the budget boundaries and collection development guidelines.

Staff highlight: Nesbitt is Sully’s current Children’s Librarian. She transferred to Sully from the Monroe Branch in 2017. During the past few years she has been at Sully, Nesbitt has worked with countless children and has created a comfortable and welcoming children’s area. She continued running the yearly gingerbread house program and was able to adjust how this popular program was delivered during COVID so the tradition could continue. Sully wishes her the best of luck with the new adventures she will have after she moves to the Frederick Douglass Branch in February!



### ***Winton Branch Library – Kathy Wolf reporting***

#### Anecdotes/Other

- The Winton Branch Library has always been a place for people to come to have exams proctored, primarily patrons wanting to take the final exam from Real Estate U to become a realtor. However, occasionally a more interesting situation arises. One gentleman needed take a three-part exam to become certified to become a horse race official. The time limitation was two hours for each part; the general horse racing test, a medical test, and a law test. The tests could be taken either separately or all together, back-to-back. Staff were glad to be able to accommodate him as he took one part a week for three weeks. Priority 3: Stewardship and Curation: Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs, services, and technologies based on community needs.

- Two recent displays have been garnering a lot of attention. The display window facing Winton Road featured the Buffalo Bills. Stuffed bears were dressed in Bills shirts, and there were signs on the windows that said “Billieve” and “Keep Calm and Believe.” Many patrons commented on the window, and it received over 20 likes on Winton’s social media sites.
- The other display was in the library and featured classic and art house movies. Finnerty had refreshed the classic movie collection and created a display to highlight them. She hung black and white movie posters as part of the display. The movies have been continually checked out and staff have refreshed the display several times. As one patron said, “I completely forgot about the movie *The Nun’s Story* with Audrey Hepburn until I saw the display. My wife and I enjoyed watching it again after all these years.”
- The Winton Branch Library has been posting humorous signs outside to give people a chuckle. This month’s sign attracted more attention than usual. The original sign read, “The math checks out/Book plus blanket equals cozy.” Staff thought it was cute, then phone calls started coming in about the blankets. It seems that people thought Winton was loaning or giving away blankets! The sign was changed mid-month to read, “Snow is falling/Books are calling.” Hopefully, this will not be able to be misconstrued!



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

#### The Phillis Wheatley site (Michele Saccente)

- Saccente and two teens joined the Teen Town Hall Zoom meeting held by Mayor Evans and other Rochester community leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce themselves, share ideas and remind the teens that they have a voice. The STBS teens found the meeting enlightening, though wish the presenters spent more time answering questions.
- Saccente created small chat-times with the teens that she is calling “Check in with Mrs. Michele.” The teens have welcomed this. Teens share about their day (classes, bus ride), their weekend, and include their feelings. The discussion usually are 5-7 minutes and have gone well. The check-ins will continue until we can have larger monthly groups.

#### The Maplewood site

Interviews for the Youth Services Assistant position have been completed. Personnel has all required paperwork for candidate. Onboarding will begin in February 2022.

#### The Lincoln site (Vera Haygood)

- Printed out applications for work permits. Assisted parent and youth with the process of obtaining their work permit for the Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP) process. The parent and youth were informed if the youth will be turning 14 years of age before June 30th, they can apply during the open recruitment in February.
- A few youths have been coming to branch play RoBlox computer platform.

### Teen Central site

- Lydia Hylton resigned from the Youth Services Assistant position on January 19, 2022. Interviews have been completed to fill this vacancy and onboarding will begin in February 2022.
- John Hylton reports that “D” is a teen that discovered Teen Central post pandemic and frequently visits the space. He enjoys making music with his friends in the ImagineYou lab and playing video games. During our video game sessions, I make sure to talk to “D” about school, mental health, and setting goals.
- Mrs. “C” is a concerned grandma who called the Teen Center looking for a space for her suspended grandson “J.” Mrs. “C” explained that “J” was a good kid but just needed to be involved in constructive activities. I had a lengthy talk with her about Teen Central and how we mentor and encourage teens to be independent and stay safe by being smart. Mrs. “C” has made an appointment with me so I can meet “J” and have a talk with him and try to understand some of the issues he is having in school.

## ***Selected Meetings & Outputs***

### ***MCLS & RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting***

***January 22, 2022 – February 18 2022***

#### Standing Meetings

City Senior Management Team (weekly)

RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)

MCLS Associate Director, Melanie Lewis, Brie Harrison, Ana Suro, Tonia Burton, Christine Ridarsky – one-to-one meetings (monthly)

FFRPL Executive Director Donna Borgus

RPL All-Staff Meeting (monthly)

MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)

New York State Library – Division of Library Development conference call (monthly)

Public Library System Directors’ Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)

City Chief of Staff Tamara Mayberry (monthly)

Urban Libraries Council Executive Director call (weekly)

MCLS Directors Council (monthly)

#### Other Meetings

Ajamu Kitwana, ESL Charitable Foundation

Kate Mariner, Fertilegroundroc.org, regarding photo exhibit at Central

City Senior Manager Retreat

Cynthia Dana regarding Central Rare Books Team

City Councilmember Mitch Gruber

City Councilmember Kim Smith and Melanie Lewis

Valley Manor residential presentation

RPL Equity Team

Senator Cooney’s Office

Larry Moss & Kelly Cheatle, Airigami (twice)

Holli Budd, Roc 100 Women Who Care

City Councilmember Stanley Martin

Victor Saunders regarding Violence Prevention

City Council President & Vice-President Miguel Melendez and Mary Lupien

FFRPL Sokol Committee Read-Through



MCLS Equity Team  
TLC-Carl Sneak peak Demo on Cognos Reporting  
CASH Press Conference  
Visit Rochester VIC Meeting  
Each One Reach One conference @St. John Fisher  
MCLS New Directors Roundtable  
Joint Board Finance Committee meeting  
New Trustee Training at Riga

Email Activity

January 2022

<b>Display Name</b>	<b>Send Count</b>	<b>Receive Count</b>	<b>Read Count</b>
Uttaro, Patricia	671	3931	6358
Lenio, Jennifer	592	2321	1618
Lewis, Melanie	221	1545	1696
Harrison, Brie	274	1880	2249
Suro, Ana	827	2931	5047