



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: March 21, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – March 2022

Action Items

None.

Discussion Items

Library Statistics

Debi Mansour has been working on streamlining the processes for gathering and presenting library statistics for both MCLS and RPL. We are at a point where we would like input from trustees regarding the statistical data they find most useful, data they would like to see which is not currently presented, and the frequency they would like to see certain data sets. Please carefully review the statistical data pages included in the board packet in preparation for a discussion on this topic.

Report Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Welcome to Jennifer Smathers!

February was busy with preparing to welcome new Associate Director Jennifer Smathers to the MCLS Office on March 1. Training plans were updated, Jennifer's office was cleaned and equipment was set up, and final plans were made for having her join our team. We are thrilled to have Jennifer with us!

Advocacy Update

Thank you to all the trustees who participated in the Library Advocacy Day meetings and in the in-district meetings in December and January. News reached us recently that both the Assembly and Senate included additional library funding in their one-house proposals. The Assembly has recommended library aid be increased to \$106.5M and construction aid increased to \$35M. The Senate has recommended library aid be increased to \$123M and construction aid to \$45M. I have asked the City to include support for increased library aid in the agenda for their lobbyist. Either proposal will be a great help to the system and our members. If there is an additional advocacy push, you will be notified and asked to participate.

COVID Test Kit Distribution

Late in February, the County Executive had staff reach out to me regarding the distribution of COVID test kits in libraries. A majority of MCLS member libraries agreed to participate in the distribution, and 5000 test kits were initially distributed. Each library had the freedom to decide how to distribute the kits. Several libraries went through their supply very quickly and requested more, which were provided. Three libraries that initially declined to participate eventually requested some kits to distribute. Several libraries also had access to kits

through their towns, which resulted in thousands of free test kits being distributed throughout Monroe County. Many thanks are owed to Shipping Supervisor Frank Russo and his crew for receiving, sorting, and delivering the kits.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Brighton Memorial Library

Friends of BML ran a book sale on February 18-23. Thousands of books, as well as puzzles and DVDs, are available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale go towards library programming and projects.

Chili Public Library

From a Rochester's Playbook Facebook post on February 18: The Spark Lab is a STEM lab nestled inside the [Chili Public Library](#). During open lab hours, you can use their 3D printer, Cricut machine, laminator, sewing machines, and more! While most things are free you do need to pay for the 3D printing and laminating. 3D printing is 10¢ per gram and laminating is 15¢ per sheet. Bring your materials for the Cricut and sewing machines! There's plenty to do for kids of all ages(and adults too!) from crafting to Osmo games to learning how to use all kinds of different creative machines! There are set open lab times. Always check the Chili Library website event calendar to confirm it's open! Make sure to look into all the Spark Kits available to check out! There are snap circuits, loom knitting, coding kits, musical instruments, and more!



East Rochester Public Library

A new Art Club for kids ages 5-10, Mini-Michelangelo's was advertised. A Painted Rainbow craft is scheduled for March.

Fairport Public Library

The new mouse mascot costume has arrived! It came slightly damaged! 😞 It was damp, and, after it had dried, it had what looked like salt stains on the pants--the article of clothing that was the wettest. Maybe it was accidentally dropped in slush and placed back inside the box at customs?. Hogtown is cleaning and replacing the shoes, which were damaged. A naming contest will happen soon. Abby Park (née DeVuyst) was promoted to Assistant Library Director, and Caitlin Crilly was hired as her replacement.

Gates Public Library

The [Monroe County Historian](#)'s Association honored Judy P. DeRooy, a past Gates Town Historian with a book dedication in her memory. A biography, *The Life of President Ronald Reagan*, was presented to Library Director, Anna Souannavong. Ms. DeRooy, lived a remarkable life until the age of 95 when she passed on December 8, 2019. Souannavong, remarked, "Judy was a trailblazing mover and shaker right here in the Town of Gates." It was a great honor for the Gates Public Library to accept this book's dedication in memory of Julia "Judy" P. DeRooy.



Greece Public Library

Two librarians discussed books they broke up with during the February 16th book break.:

<https://fb.watch/bL4i6yW1kN/>

Teen book boxes started in February, boxes of hand-picked book titles and some treats to go along with them available for pickup. Teens keep the treats and return the book and box to the library. Pre-registration is required, 10 boxes are available.

Hamlin Public Library

Margot the therapy dog participated as a listener of dog stories during the preschool storytime on February 21.

Henrietta Public Library

The library promoted a blood drive in memory of Kailee Kwicien that was held at the Henrietta Fire District meeting hall. Nominations were sought for the Antoinette Brown Blackwell Society's Woman of the Year Award. The award recognizes a woman who has, through her volunteer efforts, acted as a role model for the community. Find more information and the nomination form here: <https://buff.ly/3HcR5nj>

Irondequoit Public Library

In addition to a Black History Month storytime, many displays were created throughout the library to celebrate Black History Month. The Community Center hosted an [E.R.A.S.E. \(Eliminating Racism And Seeking Equity\) in Irondequoit NY](#) pop-up show with activities for children of all ages. An encore presentation of February 2021's Meet Asa Dunbar, African-American Pioneer on Irondequoit Bay is available at <https://youtu.be/2D6OCfG6rhQ>

Mendon Public Library

The library has two fiber craft groups, Sit 'n Stitch and Knit Nook. National Love Your Pet Day, February 20th was celebrated with a display of books. The library also offers book bundles that focus on a theme such as ducks, bugs, or dinosaurs.

Newman Riga Library

The library collected Valentines for Vets for delivery to local Veterans and had a Black History Month Display.

Ogden Farmers' Library

Mayukwa Kashiwa led an energetic celebration of African culture, drumming, dancing, and storytime, focusing on the beauty of such diversity in the world. Kimberly Wake commented, *"He is Amazing! Very interactive and fun!"* On February 28th the library held an Operation SAVE workshop. Topics included an overview of veteran suicide data, signs of a mental health crisis, how to use the SAVE model to respond to someone in crisis, and how to reduce the risk of self-harm.

Parma Public Library

Library clerk Angelina was celebrated via a Staff Spotlight Sunday Facebook post. Her favorite book series are *A Court of Torn and Roses* and *From Blood and Ash*. Her hobbies include traveling, playing sports, attending rock shows, and being at the lake. Angelina comments about her work, *"I love helping patrons find their next and future read and assist with their informational needs."*



Penfield Public Library

Penfield welcomed a new Director, Rhonda Rossman. Rossman has been a Penfield resident for more than 20 years and began her position on February 8. She was previously Director and Assistant Director at the Pittsford Community Library. *"A new Library Director with the knowledge, talent, and expertise of Rhonda Rossman is a benefit to the Penfield community,"* said Barbara Power, president of the library's Board of Trustees. *"The board looks forward to working with Rhonda to enhance the library's tradition of service and excellence."* Rossman succeeds Bernadette Brinkman, Library Director for twelve years, who retired at the end of 2021.



Pittsford Community Library

Your Friendly Neighborhood Librarians podcast posted season 2, episode 5, Banned Books/Gender Queer. In the episode, Jim and Robyn are joined by their favorite book club buddy, Roberta the page, as well as first-time guest Laura, PCL's teen and tech librarian! They have a conversation on book banning, the 2019 memoir Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe, and the importance of being able to access information. You can find every episode of Your Friendly Neighborhood Librarians on your favorite podcast app or by following this link:

<https://anchor.fm/pittsfordlibrary>

Rush Public Library

Arts programs at Rush in February included Nature photography, Glass Art Tracing for teens, and Macrame Wall Art. Other programs included History of Wampum with Richard D. Hamell, Date Night at the Library, Odd Soc Story Time, and Managing Stress for family and friend caretakers.

Brockport - Seymour Library

A Fractured Fairytale Escape Room was held for participants in grades 3-5. Random Acts of Kindness week ran February 14 - 18. Patrons turning in a random act of kindness check-list were eligible to be entered into a prize raffle for a free car wash. Therapy dogs visited the library on February 23 and 24. Canines Cissy and Joey visited every Monday from 3:30-4:30.



Webster Public Library

Valentine's day cards were collected for the Cherry Ridge Nursing Home, part of Webster students' National Honor Society service project. February programs included the opportunity to make

stress reliever toys and tape-resistant watercolor paintings. Specially highlighted days included Pokemon Day, National Wear Red Day, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and Tell a Fairy Tale Day.

MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Social Media

	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	713	613	318	12	4	5	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	3 (2,069)	1 (2,237)	19 (5,516)	-	15 (858)	26 (2,063)	21 (355)
Engagements	7	61	976	111	59	96	94
Check In/ Mentions	16	13	-	-	-	12	-
Post Reach	2649	3690	18762	3521	-	2477	33878
Video/Story Views	-	-	562	-	-	0	1367
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	2	-	-	2	-

Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting

General Services and Programs

- Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 11 library stations and fulfilled special requests for 4 stations.
- Outreach staff selected and delivered library materials and digital downloads to 20 homebound patrons; the department added 2 new in-homes this month.
- In-Home Materials Distribution
 - Door Deliveries: 15 patrons received a door delivery of physical library materials
 - Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: 5 patrons received cartridges loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library
 - Books by Mail: 2 patrons received physical library materials via USPS.
- Outreach staff mailed out reference packets to two in-home patrons and provided one patron with NYS Talking Book and Braille Library support this month. No in-home applications were distributed.
- Outreach staff received six requests for "Making Moves" reentry resource packets from incarcerated individuals, Transitional Coordinators, parolees, and ex-offenders.

Corrections Support

- Outreach staff continues to partner with the Educational Coordinator at the Monroe County Jail distribute periodicals to inmates and build a recreational reading library at Monroe County Jail.

- Instead of providing in-person programming at Monroe County Jail this month, Outreach staff compiled library marketing materials for incarcerated individuals. In-person programming at the jail is estimated to resume in April 2022. This month, the Outreach Department made its final delivery of periodicals to the Rochester Correctional Facility. RCF, one of the New York State correctional facilities slated for closure in 2022, will cease operations in March. Until the subscriptions expire at the end of the year, the Outreach Department will re-distribute the periodicals to the VOA Residential Reentry Center and the Rochester Psychiatric Forensic Unit. The Rochester Correctional Facility was the only state-run correctional facility in Monroe County; thus, going forward the department will no longer receive state correction aid (only county jail interinstitutional aid).

Outreach

Pathstone Employment Focused Services | Amy Discenza spoke, via Zoom, to a group of nine 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.

Library Stations

No missed deliveries this month (Cycle Two), but Dunn Tower declined new materials this cycle due to an increase in COVID cases.

Monthly Highlight: New Outreach Librarian

The Outreach Department is thrilled to introduce a new member of our team: Maren Kyle. For the past six-and-a-half years, Maren has been the Senior Librarian at Groveland Correctional Facility, where putting books into the hands of incarcerated individuals and sharing her enthusiasm for knowledge has been a source of great fulfillment. She's excited to bring her passion for equity to the Outreach Department where she'll be working with a broader range of underserved populations. Like so many of us in the library profession, Maren found her love of reading and libraries early (Thank you, Reading Rainbow!) and her professional ethos is guided by a belief in the value of sharing that love with others. When you catch her without her nose in a book, she's likely dabbling in cross stitch or playing the video game Animal Crossing.



Central Library Updates

Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting

Cynthia Dana joined Alicia Gunther and Margaret Paige outside Rundel on a cold windy afternoon to “decorate” the front of the building with snow critters. They used molds to make dinosaurs, penguins, snowmen, snowballs, hearts, and cubes. Passersby noticed and had positive comments. A patron approached, along with her young daughter who asked if she could help. Soon she and her mom were both involved in creating cute penguins. The

family is new to Monroe County, so Dana took the opportunity to share some highlights of the Central Library.



Community Outreach/Meetings/ Training

- Dana was contacted by the Monroe County Health Department requesting to do a tabling event to share the services they can offer residents. Details will be firmed up and the first event will take place on March 24.
- Ron Freitag, a staff member in Tech Services, approached Dana to talk about his frustration in trying to assist patrons who arrive at the computer center. They are often sent from the Department of Social Services to apply for online services, such as unemployment. Most online activities involve going through the lengthy process of ID.me. This allows people to prove their legal identity online. To do this, the person must present certain identification. The issue was that many arrive without everything required to complete this process. Dana called DSS, had an enjoyable conversation with a supervisor, then was sent to her supervisor. This resulted in Randy Scott wanting very much to work with us on this. Ron was able to contact him via email and work something out so that clients at DSS are well-informed before they arrive at the library.
- Annette Ramos, Board of Elections, reached out to the library for assistance in getting the word out that they are seeking people interested in working at the polls on election day. Dana, Alicia Gunther, and Melanie Lewis were able to meet and agreed to share flyers and posters throughout the system. Dana invited Ramos to table here at Central, which she has done twice so far.

Anecdotes/Other

- Dana heard from a long-time library user who wanted to speak specifically about the service Flo Morris has provided. He explained that he is 86 and can no longer get around as much, but Flo has kept his contact information and sends him tax forms every year. He misses coming in person but is incredibly happy to hear from Flo and appreciates all the information she has provided him with over the years.
- Dana was passing by the Circulation Desk in BLB when she overheard a patron asking how to get across the street with the overhead projector she was borrowing. It was a snowy day and she had parked in front of Rundel. Dana retrieved a book truck and made the trip over with the patron. En route, the patron shared

that her kids had asked for a Ghostbusters party, but she could not find any decorations. She got the idea to trace them and remembered that the library had an overhead projector she could use. As she said, “anything to keep the kids happy.” This was during February break. She asked questions about when each building was built, and Dana was happy to answer.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Beginner Drawing: Form, Value, and Shadow--Our patrons have expressed an interest in drawing classes, so we have had several of them. Fair-Smith taught students composition and shading by using pencils. He used a simple skull to explain how to create shading and how that shading brings dimension and proportion to a drawing. He was very friendly and open with the students, allowing questions throughout. Fair-Smith was appreciated by patrons and there were all positive comments:

“I loved being able to learn and expand my skill set with a very knowledgeable and skilled teacher. It is so convenient to be able to do it at home.”

“He's a very good artist. I love the free Zoom classes the library gives us!!!”

“The teacher completely changed my perspective on what it means to draw, how to approach drawing, and how to improve my skills. I really loved the class and would love it if you offered more classes with this teacher. I also thought he did an amazing job of making it a very useful experience over zoom. The instructor was engaging and responsive to the individuals in the class.”

- African American Abstract Art in New York during the 1960s and 1970s—To celebrate Black History Month, Cynthia Hawkins spoke about abstraction in the United States among African American artists and the problems they had showing their work in galleries. The artists discussed included Norman Lewis, Mel Edwards, William Majors, and others who came from all corners of the United States to New York City. They were sculptors and painters who worked at the Printmaking Workshop founded by the renowned African American master printer Robert Blackburn. Hawkins discussed the artists, their work, and their influences. Patrons very much enjoyed this discussion, and some comments were, “thank you for the wonderful presentation,” and “Very interesting and informative historical overview of and introduction to African American Abstract Art movement, artists and their work, and very good images of artists and some of their work.” “I learned about artists I had not known about, and Hawkins provided a good insight into art programs for diverse neighborhoods.”

Anecdotes

Like most departments, Art/Lit collects comments from patrons using Project Outcome. The comments have been very positive and have made us all so proud to be part of RPL. Listed below are two of our favorites.

“[I]LOVE the Rochester Public Library. I could go into any one and easily stay for hours just browsing and exploring what is available. The RPL always seems to be offering new services and programs. The library now is not like what I knew growing up, it has expanded to also be a "help center" of sorts where we can gain access to other resources. I really appreciate that we have all of the free benefits of the library. For example, when I got my new cell phone some years ago (around 2018), I was intimidated by it but I took a short course at the library on how to use an Android phone and what the bells and whistles were. I left feeling more confident on how to use my phone. If I need help with anything, I'll always check the library first and see if instruction is offered. Please continue to offer the writing classes.”

"I am new to Rochester and am unfamiliar with all it offers. I have moved many times, through different countries, and the local libraries were often my home base and lifeline. I am so grateful."

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 7 in person, 39 by email, 0 by mail, 3 by phone

Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 0

Webpage views: 52

3D Printer: 3

Hours of in-depth market research: 68

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 2

Tracy Jong appointments: 3.25 hours, 4 individuals served.

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: Page Views: 7; Value \$26,650

IBISWorld: Page Views 135; Value \$43,590

InnovationQ: Logins 13; Searches 154

PitchBook: Logins 21

Statista: Visits 164; Downloads 51

Programs

- Business First Wednesday: Legal Considerations for Starting a Small Business, presented by attorney Jon Lazenby.
- Cannabis Industry Meet-Up: Cultivation. Presented by Paal Elfstrum, CEO of Wheatfield Gardens.

Community Outreach/Meetings/ Training

- Byrnes toured Columbia Care, a medical marijuana dispensary, with Mayor Evans and his team. She had a total of ten meetings about cannabis.
- Byrnes and Melissa Cobo had multiple meetings for the Small Business Administration/REDCO Resource Partner Enhancement Program (RPEP). This grant allows Cobo to transition to full-time from part-time.
- Byrnes met with Denny DeLeo, head of Venture Jobs Foundation, to see how BIC and VJF can work together. They discussed Byrnes being added to one of their boards.
- Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh met with the horticulture faculty at Finger Lakes Community College to discuss presenting at their cannabis incubator events on March 25th and 26th.
- Byrnes spoke at Tuesday Topics about BIC for F&FRPL, which resulted in two new clients for BIC. She also presented at the joint RPL/MCLS board meeting to discuss the Business Value Calculator; a tool created by the Urban Libraries Council to help libraries communicate their value around entrepreneur support to stakeholders. To learn more go to: <https://urban-libraries-council.involve.me/biz-value-calculator>
- Byrnes and Cobo attended "The Promise of Social Equity in the Cannabis Industry," presented by Cornell University's Department of Industrial and Relations. Cobo and Meddaugh attended "Patent Public Search: An Overview," from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and training on updates to the InnovationQ database.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

Take Your Child to the Library Day, a national day created to encourage families to visit and advocate for their public library, was turned into Take Your Child to the Library Month. Halima Abukar created The Library Olympics, a fun family activity for in-library participation or home play. Throughout the month families created small moments together by making and racing paper airplanes, balancing books on their heads, locating the hidden flags of the world, and just enjoying the library together.

Community Outreach/Meetings/ Training

- Tonia Burton offered Talking is Teaching Orientation training for staff at Hipocampo Bookstore, United Way Home Visiting Program, and staff at University of Rochester Hoekelman Center.
- Burton hosted a training by Dr. Betsy Diamant Cohen for all MCLS children's services staff. Dr. Diamant Cohen presented an Introduction to Storytime, brain development, and strategies for creating an engaging storytime.
- Burton attended Writing a New Chapter: Advancing Diversity in Children's Books. Panelists discussed the state of diversity in children's books, why diverse representation is critical for identity development.
- Burton and Katie Powell met with the local Month of the Young Child Committee. Burton and Powell are organizing guest readers to record videos of themselves sharing a children's book. Mayor Evans graciously agreed to participate:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Spu9DN8fAV7NoyG2QwNsmDsB5hCzsmAq/view?usp=sharing>

Anecdotes/Other

As we begin seeing more families using our space, we have been working to assist caregivers with showing their children how to use the library, share toys, use appropriate behaviors, and make friends. Many of our youngest patrons have been born during the pandemic or have no memory of pre-pandemic life. It is evident that the pandemic has affected social and emotional learning, school readiness, and family relationships.

Raising A Reader

Margarita Chaves created and sent presentations focusing on different literacy skills to all Raising a Reader sites to better support families. The presentations were based on books already in rotation. Chaves then spent the last two weeks of February delivering activity bags containing extension activities based on the books from the shared presentations. The Ibero site shared a preview of what was in the activity bags.



Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 6
New Borrowers - 128
RRLC Access Cards Issued - 2
Notarial Acts – 166

Anecdotes/Other

- Melisa Miranda took a phone call from a deaf patron who was using a relay interpreter. The patron was having trouble making an appointment with CASH. Miranda brought up the online registration form, scheduled an appointment for the patron, made sure an American Sign Language interpreter would be present and waited until the patron received the confirmation e-mail.
- Jim Montione helped a patron who needed to write a school paper. She had all the information and resources that she needed, but she didn't know how to start writing the paper. Montione spent some time with her and talked about the steps to writing and formatting a paper. She thanked Montione for helping her understand how to organize her information and present her points.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The Local History & Genealogy Division hosted two programs via Zoom in February, both of which were recorded and are available to view on the library's YouTube channel.
- The monthly *Mourning in the Morning* series, presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, featured a talk by Sally Millick, "Seldens Seldom Remembered: A Family of Groundbreakers & Innovators," about a 19th-century Rochester family whose contributions included the formation of Western Union and the invention of the gas automobile. To watch, visit https://youtu.be/rNifi_1cZB8.
- The monthly *Rochester's Rich History* series featured a talk by Cheryl Sampson on "Rev. Thomas James: The Most Well-Known Abolitionist Preacher in 19th-Century America," highlighting the life and legacy of this remarkable Rochesterian whose historic contributions included building schools and churches, integrating public transportation in Boston, assisting in the release of the Amistad captives, and freeing 2,000 enslaved people in Kentucky after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. To watch, visit <https://youtu.be/T7oKsBrxFyg>.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Brandon Fess was asked to visit City Hall to assist in evaluating the historical value of law books dating back to the 1880s that were being considered for deaccession by the City's law library. Fess also provided some general advice on evaluating old books.
- Christine Ridarsky and Emily Morry continue to meet regularly via Zoom with representatives from the Rochester Institute of Technology (Tamar Carroll and Rebecca Edwards) to discuss the future operation of the *Rochester History* journal under a new RPL-RIT partnership set to begin later this year (pending board approval). As part of this partnership, the library and RIT will be co-hosting an academic conference in Fall 2022 around the theme "Mid-Sized Cities." A selection of papers presented at the conference will be published in future issues of the journal.
- Ridarsky continues to represent the Monroe County Library System on the County Legislature's Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport Renaming Advisory Committee and to co-chair (with Kathryn Murano Santos of the Rochester Museum & Science Center) that body's Education Subcommittee. The Advisory Committee met in February intending to reset the process, which has been somewhat disorganized since the committee was established last year. The group adopted a new organizational model and guiding principles. Ridarsky and Murano have drafted a charge and charter for the Education Subcommittee and submitted them to the full committee for review with the hope they the committee will adopt it at the March meeting. The Education Subcommittee has postponed its next meeting until it is provided an approved charge and charter.

- Ridarsky continues to serve as the regional coordinator for the ConsidertheSourceNY.org Diversity and Community Knowledge Project, sponsored by the NYS Archives Partnership Trust (APT) and funded by the Institute of Museum & Library Services. In February, she met with the Wayne Historians Organization to discuss the project and recruit participants. She and the other local organizers (Laura Osterhout of the Rochester Regional Library Council and Toni Stevens-Oliver of the Pittsford Central School District) met with Jordan Jace of the NYS APT to discuss plans for an educational institute we are hosting in Geneseo on May 5. For more information on the project, visit <https://considerthesourceny.org/diversity-and-collaborative-knowledge-network>.
- Ridarsky continues to represent the City on the Rochester Museum & Science Center's Collection Committee, which dealt with two significant issues in February. First was the on-air announcement in January by radio host "Brother Wease" that he had property stolen from the museum in 1967 when it was still operated by the City of Rochester. Museum records indicate that the handcrafted Native American vest, created as part of the early 20th-century federally funded Indian Arts Project, had been removed from a mannequin along with several other items. According to Wease, his ex-wife had received the stolen item from a friend and wore it to Woodstock in 1969. The item has been returned to the museum (in a rather poor condition); the museum staff is hoping to be able to recover some of the other items that were stolen at the same time. If you are interested in learning more, you can listen to the two episodes of Wease's podcast that mention it: <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/471-brother-wease-show-28229881/episode/stolen-vest-91741308/> and <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/471-brother-wease-show-28229881/episode/native-american-vest-91788771/>. Spectrum News also reported on it after it was returned: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2022/01/27/vest-stolen-from-rochester-museum-and-science-center-in-1967-returned>.

Special Collections

- Fess accessioned three new collections in February: the Ellen Swartz Papers on Public Art Projects (records of Swartz's involvement with the Austin Steward bust for the Riverside Hotel and the Amy and Isaac Post frieze for the Hochstein School of Music); the Cynthia Howk Collection of Ephemera from the Campbell Family and Victor E. Carr (East High School yearbooks from the Campbell family and World War II discharge papers from Victor E. Carr); and the Invitation and Calling Card Collection (event invitations and calling cards from numerous Rochester sources, 1848-1963).
- Fess completed a finding aid for the Ellen Swartz Papers and continued processing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Collection on Holocaust Survivors in Rochester and the Mortimer F. Delano papers element of the Montgomery & Angell Family Papers. Fess continued in-house conservation work on damaged and/or fragile items from the map collection.
- Ridarsky met with local photographer David Emert to discuss his plans to donate some of his collection of 10,000–20,000 photographic negatives to the library for inclusion in its archive of local LGBTQ+ history. The collection documents Rochester's gay scene from the 1980s through the early 2000s, including photographs of social gatherings in bars, house parties, and parks. Emert is currently digitizing and cataloging the images and plans to donate both the physical and digital collections. Ridarsky and Fess will be working with Emert over the next several months to work out logistics and funding for the management and preservation of such a large collection.
- Ridarsky made a site visit with representatives from Teen Empowerment and the Clarissa Street Reunion Committee to the Flying Squirrel Community Center on Clarissa Street to assess approximately six boxes of records of the Elks Lodge #91 Flower City Chapter and Eldorado Temple #32 Auxiliary that were found in the building basement. The predominantly Black lodge occupied the building from 1906 until the early 2000s. The records date to the lodge's founding several years before it moved to the site. The materials are

expected to be donated to the Clarissa Street archives at the library once the Flying Squirrel's board approves.

Digital Projects

- Fess continues to work with Ryan Hughes of the Rochester Regional Library Council on uploading *Rochester Images* content to the *New York Heritage* website. In February, Fess shared content from the City Hall Vintage and Rochester Photo File collections, which should be mounted on *New York Heritage* in March.
- Ridarsky, Fess, and Finn continue to participate in the Empire State Digital Asset Management project, a statewide effort led by the Rochester Regional Library Council and the Northern New York Library Council to create a digital asset management system using the Archipelago software developed by the METRO NY library council. The team uploaded a small sample of items to the system in February and attended a meeting to provide feedback on the process and to receive training in batch uploading. The team's input on the test uploads will be used to hone the software to ensure it will be useful to repositories seeking accessible and affordable solutions to digital collections management.

Rochester Voices

- *Rochester Voices* was one of the main resources used to research content for "Black Radio Rochester," a new podcast series about Rochester's first African American radio personalities, Howard Coles and Alma Kelso. Published in celebration of Black History Month, this four-part series was produced by RCTV and WXIR Community Radio and supported by a Historic Preservation Grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation. The podcast is hosted by local high school students who interweave Coles' and Kelso's stories with their perspectives on Black history, social change, music, and media representation. To listen, visit <https://www.rctvmediacenter.org/blackradiorochester>.
- New content was added to *Rochester Voices* this month. The final two lessons developed for the Erie Canal for the Classroom unit for fourth graders were added to the Classroom Connections section, completing the unit, which now contains 13 lessons and two teacher guides. It can be viewed at <http://www.rochestervoices.org/lesson-plan/erie-canal-for-the-classroom/>.
- Finn also added a new collection to the site: 19th Ward Oral Histories, containing 13 recorded interviews with neighborhood residents. The collection was developed in partnership with the 19th Ward Community Association and researchers at the University of Rochester Linguistics Department. The interviews cover topics ranging from childhood memories to present-day reflections on the neighborhood and Rochester more broadly. The neighborhood association considers the collection a work-in-progress and intends to increase the number of interviewees to better represent the diversity of the neighborhood. To view this collection, visit http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/19th_ward_oral_histories/.
- Another oral history collection is being augmented through a partnership with a Rochester Institute of Technology history class. Ridarsky used the library's TheirStory application to create autogenerated transcriptions of several interviews in the Phyllis Wheatley African American Oral History Collection (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/african-american-oral-histories/>); RIT students have been reviewing and correcting the transcripts. Currently, the only way to engage with the interviews on *Rochester Voices* is by listening to them. The transcripts will make it easier for users to identify relevant material within each interview.

Office of the City Historian

- Ridarsky, archival consultant John Elsbree, and SUNY Brockport intern John Ryan completed a comprehensive inventory of urban renewal records in the Municipal Archives/Records Center. The project was funded through a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to the University at Albany as part of a statewide initiative. Elsbree expects to submit his final report in early March. Ridarsky will work with City

Communications to make the inventory and supporting materials available on the City's website in the coming months.

- Morry developed and submitted two applications for the first stage of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation historical marker grant. The sites for the markers, if approved, will be Cab Calloway's former home on Cypress Street and the former headquarters of Martha Matilda Harper's beauty business on East Main Street.

Interns/Volunteers

- Volunteer Kaye Knoll continued processing the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club records. Knoll contributed 4 hours in February.
- Volunteer Noeme Liestman completed inventorying the division's Ephemera (posters and prints) collection. She will begin working with photographic collections in March, starting with the identification and sorting of negatives in the Roger B. Smith collection. Liestman contributed 7 hours this month.
- Linda Lopata continued to volunteer with the City Historian's Office, rehousing and cataloging items collected from Susan B. Anthony's gravesite on Election Day 2016. Lopata contributed 9 hours this month.
- Intern Zachary Vila (SUNY Geneseo) continued arranging and describing what has now been officially named the Invitations and Calling Cards collection. He underwent training in ArchivesSpace and has begun to create a finding aid for the collection, which should be completed in early March. He also began sorting boxes of concert programs, which is the first step in his next project. Vila contributed 48 hours in February.

Anecdotes

Jim Memmott from the *Democrat & Chronicle* read Morry's January blog post about blind freedom rider Norma Wagner and added Wagner to his list of Remarkable Rochesterians in his article "These Icons wandered off the beaten path, arrived in Rochester, challenged the status quo," published on February 4, 2022. Memmott complimented Morry and provided a link to Morry's post in his article: "In a terrific profile in the most recent edition of Local History Rocs!, a Rochester Public Library blog, Emily Morry wrote about a local activist who joined the national struggle for civil rights in the 1960s."

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/local/columnists/memmott/2022/02/04/rochester-ny-history-shaped-wanderers-who-challenged-status-quo/9312519002/>

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

In February RMC held 2 Brown Bag Book Discussion programs via Zoom, talking about the book *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris. The first was on 2/23 and another on 2/25. RMC provided 6 A/V setups for programs in Central Library's auditoriums.

Statistics

In February, RMC rented 7 pieces of equipment, 249 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 3,972 items or 37% of the Central Library's total circulation of 10,831 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog, and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC totaled 8,944 circulations.

Database Use

Hoopla

- Circulation
 - Audiobooks – 880
 - Binge Pass – 18
 - Comics – 132
 - eBooks – 324
 - Movies/TV – 304
 - Music – 57
 - Total Circulation – 1715
- Users
 - New users – 46
 - Total users – 450
- Cost
 - Total \$3,223.44
 - Per item – \$1.88

Science and History, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs

- Gardening Basics: Indoor Seeding Preparing for Next Season's Harvest was presented by Jarmila Haseler from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. The program focused on planning and preparing for the future harvest before the growing season begins. (Education & Engagement)
- Exploring India's Northeast was presented by David Mould, who has proven to be quite popular. The program was well-received, and David's knowledge was respected by the group, who also quizzed him on his thoughts regarding the current conflict in Ukraine.
- This month's Got Health program, in collaboration with the University of Rochester Medical Center's Center for Community Health & Prevention, was titled: "Getting Right to the Heart of the Matter." The heart health program was a tie-in for American Heart Month.
- Mark Sample, History Professor from Monroe Community College, led Exploring the Friendship of Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali. Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali came together through the Nation of Islam, an Islamic and Black National Movement. Malcolm X was already part of the movement and was elated to become a mentor to Ali.

Community Outreach/Meetings/ Training

- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) served 40+ people this month and has added a day and is now in the library three days per week.
- Gabe Pellegrino and Darlene Richards met with Lori O'Brien and Lourdes Mercado Stokes from Legal Assistance of Western New York intending to resume free legal assistance at the library.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Programs

- The Technology Center's in-person programming has gone on hiatus until the 7th of March. The online participants of the Saturday Dungeons and Dragons program are eager to meet together again. Pedro Nunez

reached out to all the participants from the last nine months and the response has been robust.

- The Technology Center is reconfiguring its education programs to match our patron demonstrated needs. Going forward this unit's technology tutoring will be more directed at one-on-one appointments with the staff member best able to address the specific needs of the patron. Weekly classes on specific topics will still be offered, but for many patrons, appointments with staff members are a very attractive option.

Anecdotes/Other

- Several months ago, we helped an older gentleman navigate the process of filing for unemployment, a thing he never thought he'd have to do. He came back again this month with a problem he needed to solve. He shares with staff he's never used a cellphone. He doesn't have a television. He says, "I'm old school, and I mean old." He is over 60 years old and has worked almost exclusively on loading docks his entire life, and after a few uneasy months of unemployment, he needs to get back to work. The Technology Center staff helped him look for work on Craigslist and submit some applications online. We have not seen him in several weeks, so we don't know if he got the job he wanted. He's not someone we see unless he needs help. His predicament serves to remind us that even a single trip to the library may be the only chance we will get to make a difference for a patron.
- Cindy, one of our regular patrons, came in one afternoon looking a bit feverish and tired. Jeanne Slocombe has been working with this patron on various projects over the past few months and approached the patron to see if she was alright. Cindy wasn't alright. She had just gotten out of Strong's emergency department after complications from recent surgery and hadn't eaten since the previous day. Slocombe was surprised to learn that Cindy had no food at home. Cindy is a graduate student, barely making financial ends meet as she builds a future for herself. Slocombe got Cindy to the café in the Bausch and Lomb Building, where the manager comped Cindy's lunch. Later, Cindy went home with a second meal in her backpack that Slocombe had gotten for her. Cindy has since gotten in touch with Slocombe to thank her and to assure her things are getting better.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Switching to Zoom for the Coding program still attracted several users. The engaged learners are using the Library Coding Program Google Drive. In addition to reviewing the course content, they contribute code and share information and resources with other learners.
- Craft 'n' Chat program—this has proven to be a good way to encourage youth to talk about various topics while they work. They are quite proud of what they have made. Hopefully, pictures can be shared soon.
- Teen Book Talk—Books discussed were *All the Days Past*, *All the Days to Come* by Mildred Taylor, and *What's the Deal with Addiction*, leading to a discussion on good life choices.
- African American Trivia: One fact a day was presented to Teen Central. The participating youth with the most correct answers won a Walmart gift card.

- The Glowforge had some of its most thoughtful use this month. Here you can see Valentine's Day gifts a little girl had made for her class, as well as a birthday sign:



- The library is now registered with the North American Scholastic Esports Federation. We are going to begin building our Esports team and designing our team website. Here is an example of one of our teens streaming this month from imagineYOU:



Anecdotes/Other

- Fae Jahanshiri received an email from Code4Lib that she won the diversity scholarship to attend this year's conference in Buffalo, NY.
- Pre-production has begun on the Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Urban Storytelling Project. Carnell Jones, our teen who produced Art in the Loop and other projects for the library, is going to produce it. Carnell also used the library this month to update his YouTube channel. The video he produced at imagineYOU has amassed more than 2,300 views. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnPekvw80PVWAhgRvV1QK7Q>
- This month imagineYOU also helped out all over the library. We were able to produce photos for the Children Center's new display and secret room. Additionally, 11 hours of footage was hyper-lapsed into a 1-minute video of the secret room shelf construction. Check out some of that content here: https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FSecret%20Room%20in%2060%20Seconds%2Em%20p4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments
- The music studio continues to be in constant use. Episode 5 of the Selden Files podcast was recorded this month. One teen, who attended our beat-making seminar months ago, continues to practice and will be entering a beat into the Media Festival. Check out one of his latest beats here: [aryon's beat.wav](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aryon's_beat.wav)

Selected Meetings & Outputs

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

February 19, 2022 – March 18, 2022

Standing Meetings

City Senior Management Team (weekly)

RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)

Tonia Burton, Brie Harrison, Melanie Lewis, Christine Ridarsky, Jennifer Smathers, Ana Suro, – 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)

Urban Libraries Council Executive Director call (weekly)

MCLS Directors Council (monthly)

Other Meetings

City Equity Team meeting

Attorney Stephanie "Cole" Adams regarding trustee training for MCLS

Rochester 100 Women Who Care quarterly meeting

Library Advocacy Day

- Senator Ed Rath
- Assemblymember Jen Lunsford
- Assemblymember Sarah Clark
- Assemblymember Steve Hawley
- Assembly Member Demond Meeks

Causewave Community Partners "Lovefest" annual event

Urban Libraries Council regarding new Anti-Racism and Digital Equity benchmark development

SMT City bus tour

City budget community input session

RPL Board Strategic Planning Committee

School Library Journal Middle-Grade Magic virtual conference

City Council Committee meeting

City budget telephone town hall

Visit Rochester (VIC) meeting

Chamber Women's Council ½ day conference

Pittsford Community Library Podcast (guest speaker)

City Budget Director Mike Burns

Email Activity

February 2022

Name	Send Count	Receive Count	Read Count
Uttaro, Patricia	800	4413	7056
Lenio, Jennifer	541	2486	1312
Lewis, Melanie	253	1796	1920
Harrison, Brie	304	2204	2524
Suro, Ana	811	3230	4804