



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: April 25, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – April 2022

Action Items

Amended Professional Services Agreement, CampbellNet Solutions (Harrison)

During 2020 CampbellNet supported the replacement of fiber between the Bausch & Lomb and Rundel buildings, as part of repairs to the tunnel chase during Rundel North Terrace and South Avenue renovations. In doing so it was recommended we evaluate and consider replacement of internal fiber connections within the Rundel building, as several runs are approximately 25 years old.

CampbellNet has secured discounted fiber and has quoted labor and materials for cable replacements on the first through third floors of the Rundel building for \$6,100. We propose an increase to pay for software and labor to support the additional work. This will revise CampbellNet's existing agreement from \$5,000 to \$11,100, funded from the 2022 operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve an amended professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$6,100, for a revised agreement totaling \$11,100.

Request to Amend 2022 Budget for Vehicle Purchase (Harrison)

We request that the 2022 budget be amended to appropriate \$70,000 from the Library Fund Balance as cash capital for the replacement purchase of a fleet vehicle. In 2020 the MCLS began planning for the replacement of its delivery fleet in the Capital Improvement Program, for cyclical replacement of three (3) box trucks which are seven years old. Funding was allocated in the 2022 CIP based on cost estimates from early 2021. Bids were received in spring 2022 with the cost exceeding the debt allocation of \$216,000 by over \$59,000, given the current inflationary and supply chain environment.

An appropriation from the fund balance is requested to enable the bid of the third truck based on the current cost environment. The amount requested is in anticipation of continued cost escalation and lack of scale from the prior bid environment. This support is 100% funded by the Library Fund, with a projected remaining balance of \$1,166,902 after appropriations. No additional net County support is required in the current Monroe County budget.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an amendment to the 2022 budget to appropriate \$70,000 from the Library Fund Balance as cash capital for the purchase of a replacement fleet vehicle.

MCLS-Uttaro Agreement (Stockman)

The Board Personnel Committee recommends for approval the renewal of Director Uttaro's employment contract, the term of which will take effect retroactively from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. The terms of the contract have not changed. The MCLS Personnel Committee will meet at a later date with the RPL Board Personnel Committee to discuss an evaluation process for the Director.

Board Action Requested: Approve the updated MCLS Director's Contract as endorsed by the Personnel Committee.

Discussion Items

Fines Elimination

Recently the Buffalo-Erie County and Onondaga Library Systems announced that they are eliminating overdue fines at all libraries in their systems. This action follows a similar announcement from the New York, Queens, and Brooklyn systems. This has also prompted discussion within MCLS and other NYS systems. I will be raising this formally for discussion with member library directors and would appreciate a discussion with MCLS trustees.

As you know, RPL eliminated fines on materials for children and teens in 2016. Since then, RPL has seen an overall 10% increase in the borrowing of these materials. In the first year, there was a 9% increase in new library cards, but that was not repeated. There was no corresponding increase in collection agency turnovers or lost items. These experiences mirror those of other libraries in the U.S. which eliminated fines, as recently shared through the Urban Libraries Council Directors mailing list.

If there is support from the board to pursue this discussion with member library directors, we will begin with updating the research done for RPL in 2015.

Report Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Intellectual Freedom Trustee Program

MCLS was pleased to host attorney Stephanie Cole Adams as she delivered an exceptionally useful program on intellectual freedom and materials challenges. More than 60 trustees, directors, and staff participated and learned strategies for handling intellectual freedom challenges. Ms. Adams shared a useful process for library staff to use when speaking with potentially angry patrons, and also shared tips and examples of collection development policies and reconsideration forms. This was especially timely as some MCLS member libraries have faced some disturbing backlash on social media and have had materials formally challenged.

MCLS Plan of Service

Associate Director Smathers and I spent time reviewing the MCLS Plan of Service and met once with Allyn Stelljes from Causewave to go over the process we used in 2021 to develop the plan. We have rescheduled the annual MCLS Directors Retreat to May 4, when Stelljes will review the plan and its implementation with directors. We will also use part of that retreat day to discuss the role of public libraries in the Monroe County comprehensive planning project, Plan Forward.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Brighton Memorial Library

- Staff was appreciated with a bouquet and lunch during the month from grateful patrons. Events included performances by the Goodwin Academy of Irish Dance and Lyre, Lyre Harp Duo.
- Jude Hyzen's retirement party celebrated her 32 years of service to the library.



Chili Public Library

Tail Waggin' Tutor Daisy the dog passed away in March. The reading program continues with therapy dog Sadie on the third Tuesday of each month at 4 pm.

East Rochester Public Library

ERPL now has a 3D Printer courtesy of NYS Bullet Aid and the efforts of Assemblymember Jennifer Lunsford. The staff has been busy learning how to use it and it's available for patron use. ERPL will charge \$1.00/hour for 3D printing. Files can be downloaded for free at <https://www.thingiverse.com/> as well as other sites.

Fairport Public Library

The library received more than 1600 responses to the survey conducted by Causewave Community Partners. This important input will be used as the library plans for the future.

Gates Public Library

Iron Chef: No-Cook Dessert Version was held on Saturday, March 19 with 29 participants. Each team was asked to make 3 unique no-cook desserts, each one using a different secret ingredient. Entries were peer judged on the use of the secret ingredient, taste, creativity, working together as a team, and presentation. It was a great program with each of the 5 teams winning 1st place in the different categories. Check out the Teen/Tween Classes and Events brochure for upcoming fun and informative programs! <https://bit.ly/3iuAEZG>

Greece Public Library

Greece Reads 2022 featured an engaged Big Book Discussion about *A Woman Is No Man* at Blue Barn Cidery and an author visit with Eraf Rum.



Hamlin Public Library

An I Spy game for children, tweens, and teens ran in March. Participants were urged to search for objects in the children's and teens' areas to win prizes.



Henrietta Public Library

A popular display of student artwork was featured in the library during March. Some were reminiscent of the library's dinosaur theme!



Irondequoit Public Library

Historian Michelle Furlano led a discussion on the work of Susan B. Anthony for Women's History Month. The Susan B. Anthony House contributed an exhibit of Anthony's life and work. Additionally, a display highlighting notable Irondequoit and Ukrainian women from the Ukrainian-American Community Foundation at Ukrainian Federal Credit Union is now available for viewing in the Muisus Family Local History Gallery. The exhibit will run through June 11, 2022.

Mendon Public Library

- March saw the return of toys and cars to the train table in the children's room.
- An after-hours Horror in the Library with magic by Cris Johnson took place on March 18th. It had no blood but plenty of "Ewww, gross!" moments.

Ogden Farmers' Library

A shaving foam art project for families generated lots of smiles. Walking Club founder, Caitlin, led the walking club one last time before she left OFL. All of us here at OFL will miss her! The walking club will continue with our new social media assistant, Peter, at the helm!



Parma Public Library

Parma held a Writer's Room meeting on Tuesday, March 29. The beginning of each meeting includes time to free write or work on a prompt followed by a time for sharing and constructive feedback. This month's staff spotlight was shown on longtime Library Clerk Janice.



Penfield Public Library

- A wide assortment of programs at Penfield included Scratched Eggs, Poetry Discussion, and a local author talk, "Your Children Are Very Greatly In Danger: School Segregation in Rochester, New York."
- A special Bruce the Bear celebration was held twice for children to meet Bruce from the *Mother Bruce* series of books by Ryan T. Higgins, listen to a story, have fun with crafts, and play a game or two.



Pittsford Community Library

- March was truly lucky at Pittsford. It started with a celebration of Pi Day, a performance by the Tin Dippers, then reached a new pinnacle on St. Patrick's Day when the library became FINE FREE for children's and

teens' materials. Full details:

<https://www.townofpittsford.org/librarynews/pcls-childrens-and-teen-materials-fine-free-effective-thursday-march-17>

- The celebratory mood continued with “A Bit of Irish Street Band” and the release of the first batch of grown-up games to borrow.

Rush Public Library

Alongside programs to support aging in place, low maintenance house-plants, storytimes, and gnome making the library offered COVID test kits for pickup. After the tests were made available, extra special avian visitors showed up!

Seymour Library

- Lea is the new Adult Services Librarian at Seymour. She helped promote our Worms and Dirt make kits.
- Another new arrival is Spirit the eagle in the Children’s Room. Jack S. won the naming contest and earned a free book from the upcoming book sale for his efforts.
- Other library activities in March included Nintendo Switch gaming, tabletop games, an electronics recycling event to benefit Camp Good Days, and a blood drive.



Webster Public Library

Webster collaborated with the Winton Branch Library on an International Transgender Day of Visibility Facebook post on March 31st. The post generated varying responses, including angry comments from outside of Monroe County. The ability to comment was turned off on both posts as the discussion was not constructive.

MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

March was a truly exciting month to start working as Associate Director for MCLS.

Programs

Intellectual Freedom in the MCLS: Book Challenges and Beyond by Stephanie Cole Adams

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5RPP31gPKU>

OverDrive

- Alicia Gunther continued to check hold lists and title recommendations received by the system. 175 titles were added to the shared collection, 64 titles were added to the Lucky Day collection, and 913 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.
- MCLS Great Courses: During March, 186 patrons checked out one-week access passes to Great Courses. Great Courses will continue to be available system-wide as a trial run for all of 2022.
- 1,063 items were checked out from the MCLS Overdrive collection through Sora.

MCLS Rotating Collections

- Portions of the Game collection were distributed to the Newman Riga Library
- Portions of the MCLS Mobile Maker Space were distributed to the Seymour Library and the Brighton Memorial Library.
- A collection of approximately 25 books from the Central Library collection on Ukraine was sent to the Pittsford Community Library to help boost display materials within the library.

Social Media

	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	452	314	216	11	0	8	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	11 (2,075)	12 (2,242)	15 (5,516)	-	24 (872)	1 (2,064)	17 (372)
Engagements	9	7	806	37	20	122	66
Check In/ Mentions	22	22	-	-	-	12	-
Post Reach	1467	4211	12646	546	-	2665	27984
Video/Story Views	-	-	468	-	-	0	1101
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	2	-	-	7	-

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 9 stations.
- Outreach staff selected and delivered library materials and digital downloads to 25 homebound patrons.

In-Home Materials Distribution

- Home Deliveries: 17 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials
- Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: 6 patrons received cartridges loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille Library (each cartridge included 15-25 titles selected and downloaded by Outreach staff)

- Books by Mail: 3 patrons received physical library materials via USPS
- Outreach staff mailed out six reference packets to in-home patrons. No in-home applications were distributed this month.
- Outreach staff received seven requests for “Making Moves” reentry resource packets from incarcerated individuals, Transitional Coordinators, parolees, and ex-offenders; the “Making Moves” webpage received 56 views.

Corrections Support

- Outreach staff continues to partner with the Educational Coordinator at the Monroe County Jail to distribute periodicals to inmates and build a recreational reading library.
- Outreach Librarian, Maren Kyle, completed the Jail Volunteer Security Training this month. Outreach Department staff have been cleared to resume in-person programming at the jail in April.
- Library Assistant, Wes Becker, continues to make regular updates and improvements to “Making Moves,” the department’s reentry resource packet (and website). Becker regularly networks with staff members from relevant community organizations, making new contacts and soliciting their feedback.

Library Stations

Station Support Visits: Outreach librarians Amy Discenza and Kyle made a station support visit to Crest Manor Living & Rehab Center in Fairport. Discenza and Kyle met with Crest Manor’s longtime Activities Director to review the site’s micro collection profile (preferred formats, quantities, genres, and authors) and discuss other collections and services available through the department. Outreach staff keeps a profile for each library station served and uses this information as a roadmap when selecting materials for their bi-monthly deliveries and for making purchasing decisions in general. Micro collection profiles should be revisited regularly to ensure the department is meeting the needs of current residents. Station visits often reveal other insights about resident needs – for instance, Crest Manor residents love DVDs audiobooks, but lack players – as well as general trends in eldercare.

Outreach

- Outreach librarians Discenza and Kyle presented to a group of residents at Valley Manor Independent Living Apartments about digital library services for readers and enthusiasts of the arts. Discenza and Kyle sounded off on their favorite features of Libby, Hoopla, and Medici.tv, then demonstrated how to browse and borrow from each service.
- Discenza spoke, via Zoom, to a group of students from the March cohort of Pathstone’s Employment Focused Services Program. In her presentation, Discenza highlighted library collections and services that are of particular value to individuals who are job hunting, contemplating new careers, or interested in continuing their education; the health and human service-related programs offered through the Central Library, CASH, and the Foodlink Community Cafe; and, of course, the many ways one can use the library to save some money and have a good time. Pathstone’s 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. Discenza speaks with a new cohort each month and keeps Pathstone’s Water Street office supplied with library events calendars and brochures.

Central Library Updates

Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Cynthia Dana was contacted by the Monroe County Health Department, whose request for a tabling event was accepted and set up each month moving forward. The first event took place this month and they were very pleased with the number of patrons who stopped by to inquire about their services. They concentrated on mental health awareness. They were quite impressed with the work that Tech Center staff is doing and are interested in learning more and collaborating with them.

Anecdotes/Other

Central Library participated in the Rochester City School District Shadowing Day, hosting a student from the School of the Arts. Her interests lie in fashion design, so she spent most of her time with Jeff Bostic in the ImagineYou Lab working on some designs using their equipment. She and her chaperone were amazed at all we can offer here and especially pleased with Foodlink's pay it forward model. The student plans to return to take advantage of the Photoshop and photography sessions offered by Bostic and also for her opportunity to pay it forward in the cafe.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Writing--Jeanne Salvato taught a four-part series of creative writing classes. The response to her teaching style was very positive, with one student commenting that the best part of the class was,
"The instructor! I had read about Jeanne Salvato before and really wanted to take a class with her. She spent many years in France and is bilingual. I am trilingual---English, German, Spanish. I "jumped" when I saw she was leading this one. She was very patient and always encouraging with everyone. I would really love to be in contact with a few of the other writers, but I guess it cannot happen."

The connections that form between the people participating in classes at the library are one of the greatest benefits we offer. As another student commented, the best part of the class was

"...being around other writers and feeling connected with them."

- Painting an Eastern Bluebird--The Art Division's first painting class was a great success. Artist Ola Kraszpuska, taught an in-person class, teaching students how to paint an Eastern Bluebird. Each student was provided an 8 x 8 stretched canvas, paint, and brushes. This was an acrylic painting class, and students were taught how to mix each paint color to get the exact shade needed. All students left with their painted birds and were excited to have a piece of art they created to hang in their homes. Some comments were,
"What a fun and amazing class!" "It was wonderful to paint again and learn new techniques." "Hands-on painting with a lovely painting to take home."



Kraszpuska, will be back to teach two more classes.

- St. Patrick's Day terrariums--Jardin Terrariums always brings our patrons fun and creative things to make, and this was no exception. Owner Kathleen Rullo brought glass terrariums for patrons to fill with succulents and a whimsical Leprechaun for St. Patrick's Day. Rullo always provides good instructions for students to create their mini gardens and guides students on how to take care of their succulents. All students had a fun experience making this playful garden, and their comments reflect their experience. *"Please more terrarium and plant-based activities," "It was a fun project."*
- Women's Fiber Arts: Needle & Thread: From Sustenance to Activism--This discussion was given by Marj Crum, Associate Professor of Design at Monroe Community College. She spoke about women's roles in the world of needle arts and how it has been a women's domain for centuries. Crum spoke about how women prepared girls for the responsibility of supporting a household, and how they were taught to make use of fabric and needlework so they could make contributions to the family. In the 19th century, women used symbols created with needlework as a method of communication. Crum looked at all women, exploring diversity, and introduced patrons to the Gee's Bend Quilters in Gee's Bend Alabama. The quilts of Gee's Bend are among the most important African American visual and cultural contributions to the history of art within the United States. Crum also spoke about the inventions by women to make working with fabric easier, one invention being the ironing board. Sarah Boone, an African American inventor, was awarded the patent for her ironing board on April 26th, 1892. Her ironing board was designed to improve the ironing of sleeves and the bodies of women's garments. Patrons commented on how, *"The presentation highlighted a diverse group of women- poor, wealthy, black, and white women." "I enjoyed the historical trip through time and giving women credit for their contributions & accomplishments."*



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 4 in person, 31 by email, 0 by mail, 2 by phone.

Webpage views: 40

3D Printer: 25

Hours of in-depth market research: 75

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 2

Tracy Jong appointments: 5 hours, 6 individuals served.

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: Page Views: 22; Value \$59,950

IBISWorld: Page Views 129; Value \$46,400

InnovationQ: Logins 5; Searches 34

PitchBook: Logins 11

Statista: Visits 113; Downloads 45

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with Darrin Conroy, head librarian for the Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) research arm, to discuss resources and how they can work together.

- Byrnes, City staffers, and members of the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship met with Jason Berry of Oaksterdam University, a for-profit educational institution focused on cannabis.
- Byrnes met with Prakash Goswami of MARL 5G, an accelerator that now has a presence in Rochester. MARL 5G is an early-stage accelerator fund focused on startups that create DeepTech products and services for enterprise customers running on 5G. Their goal is to build a community of early-stage investors, startup founders, and corporate venture teams in the space of Mobility, AR/VR, Autonomous, Robotics, and Logistics, which will experience a huge disruption with the spread of wireless 5G technology. They discussed how BIC and MARL can work together. For more information: <https://www.marlaccelerator.com/>. She then presented to the MARL cohort to discuss services.
- Byrnes and Melissa Cobo attended multiple meetings for the Resource Partner Enhancement Program (RPEP) grant (Small Business Administration). Byrnes met with John Rodriguez, the coach assigned to BIC for the RPEP grant. John has been a marketer, an award-winning entrepreneur, and change agent. For more information: <https://johnrodriguez4change.com>.
- Byrnes, Cobo, and Kate Meddaugh were speakers at the Finger Lakes Community College cannabis business incubator programs. The program was held over two days in both Rochester and Canandaigua. Other speakers included Mayor Malik Evans and NYS Senator Jeremy Cooney. More than 100 people combined attended the programs.
- Meddaugh and Cobo presented to entrepreneurship students at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for Craig Talmage's Entrepreneurial Studies class.
- Byrnes was a judge for NextCorp's Embark Mid-Program Selection event. Embark allows participants to discover an idea that addresses a real-world problem, validate its market potential, and build a software solution to sell, without a full-time commitment or knowing how to code. For more information: <https://nextcorps.org/embark>.
- Cobo and Meddaugh participated in the three-day Undoing Racism training facilitated by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

Anecdotes/Other

- BIC is featured in the forthcoming book from the American Library Association *Libraries that Build Business: Advancing Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Public Libraries*. A case study titled *Rochester: Innovation Was Born Here*, authored by Byrnes is included in the book. It will be available this summer.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

- The Secret Room renovation was completed in March. This project was a part of the Play Everywhere Design Challenge that was funded in part by Kaboom and The Ralph C. Wilson Foundation. The Secret Room has long been an iconic space in Rochester that is a must-see for any Rochester native who moves away and comes back. The space has needed an update for a long time. We were able to ask the community what they wanted in the Secret Room through focus groups with children, parents, and teachers. The space can easily transition to meet the needs of patrons throughout the day. This space can serve as a storytime area, open play space, movie theater, planetarium, or classroom.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton joined the annual University of Rochester Department of Pediatrics/Hoekelman Center Dyson Day: Literacy For All - Chaos or Community. This year's speaker was Kareen Weaver. He is a co-leader of Full and Complete Reading is a Universal Mandate (FULCRUM), which partners with various stakeholders to

improve reading results for students. There is a desire among some attendees to give library cards to all children born in Monroe County and share the Talk, Read, Sing campaign across organizations.

- As a New York State trainer for the Every Child Ready to Read initiative, Burton led five weeks of Supercharged Storytime training for 30 public library staff. The course provides information on building early literacy and school readiness skills for anyone presenting storytime for families and caregivers.
- Burton participated in a Promising Ventures Studio call for Raising A Reader National. Promising Venture Studios is a nonprofit accelerator for social entrepreneurs in early childhood. Raising A Reader invited Burton to share how the library has been able to expand our reach and remove barriers to early literacy and the role Raising A Reader has played.
- Burton trained eight community members on the Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing Greater Rochester Campaign. The newest organization to join the effort are Hillside Parents As Teachers, Roc the Future, and Rochester City School District Adult Family Educator.
- Katie Powell and Burton participated with the Month of the Young Child committee to facilitate the recording and video creation of stories read by local VIPs. Powell turned each recording into a video that included Talk, Read, Sing messaging.
- Burton met with representatives from Fidelis Care to organize a community Spring Egg Hunt at the Central Library. This will be a program that invites people to search for eggs and prizes throughout Central Library. Many community organizations will be invited to share resources and services. Several Central staff members are helping the Children's Center staff: Ana Suro, Cynthia Dana, Mary Fraser, Renee Kendrot, and security and facilities staff. This will be the first time Children's has done such a large program since Cookie Monster came to celebrate the 50th birthday of Sesame Street in 2019.
- Burton, Hazen, and Powell interviewed candidates for the Family Literacy Coordinator Position. There were very strong applicants and after much consideration, they chose Catherine Kyle. Kyle is currently the Head of Youth Services & Adult Programs for the Chili Public Library. She has a strong background in technology, which is a gap that needs to be filled. Kyle began her library career with RPL as a page many years ago. She is excited to get back to RPL and looks forward to all the opportunities. Kyle will fill the role of division head for the Children's Center, a role that has been vacant since August.

Anecdotes/Other

The Children's Center received a donation of a large, very detailed handmade dollhouse from Mr. Allan Platt. Miranda Hazen coordinated with Mr. Platt to get the dollhouse into the library and set it up in the Children's Center's display area. Mr. Platt then spent several days over the next week reassembling it. The dollhouse will live in the display area permanently, though Maintenance is working on getting a more movable table for it so that it can be easily turned and all sides can be viewed. Mr. Platt also left many seasonal accessories so they can change throughout the year.



Raising A Reader

Margarita Chaves was able to do community outreach to our RAR sites this month. Chaves was able to hold storytimes in various RAR sites and complete some activities based on the stories read. Storytimes at Ibero have been completed every Friday and one storytime was completed for the YMCA this month. Chaves read the story, *Go Away Big Green Monster* and after the story was over the kids were able to create a monster using play-doh. Chaves was reading one of the books from the red bag rotation called, *Not A Box* to one of the sites. The kids became excited to share what they had created with boxes at home like in the story.



Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 11

New Borrowers - 146

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 9

Notarial Acts – 258

A separate document depicting a “Day in the Life of Circulation Services” is included at the end of this report.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The fifth annual Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues took place at the Memorial Art Gallery, presented by the Central Library in partnership with the Memorial Art Gallery, the Out Alliance, and River Campus Libraries with sponsorship from Shoulders to Stand On, Humanities New York, and the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The theme of this year’s daylong event was “The AIDS Crisis in Rochester: A Community Responds.” The event aligned with the gallery’s current exhibition, *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*.
- The library hosted “Dialogues in Depth: Denial, Fear, and Continuing Stigma: AIDS Rochester and Community Health Network Respond,” the first program in the new Dialogues in Depth series presented by the Local History & Genealogy Division, Shoulders to Stand On, and the Out Alliance. This monthly series, which runs through June, expands on this year’s Rainbow Dialogues by exploring Rochester’s response to the AIDS crisis in detail. Panelists for the program were Mark Ellenwood, Ann Griep, Paula Silverstrone, and Dr. William Valenti.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Michelle Finn was one of a handful of women from the Monroe County Library System invited by Patty Uttaro to attend *biz.Exchange: Women Empowering Women*, a half-day conference sponsored by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the Women’s Council. The event brought together professional women throughout the area for a slate of sessions focused on supporting women’s leadership, career advancement, mental and financial wellbeing, and professional networks.
- Christine Ridarsky and RPL Collections Manager Jen Lenio met with Jacqueline Sprague, project manager for the Harriet Tubman Journey to Freedom’s Rochester celebration. The traveling Journey to Freedom statue is scheduled to be on display, tentatively in Washington Square Park, in September and October 2022. For information, see <https://woffordsculpturestudio.com/exhibitions/harriet-tubman>. Sprague is seeking partners to host and present programming on topics connected to Harriet Tubman during the statue’s visit. Ridarsky is coordinating with Central divisions, branches, and town libraries to develop plans.
- Ridarsky met with City Councilmember Mitch Gruber to discuss several public history projects that he is supporting, including City and library support for the Harriet Tubman project (see above), further efforts to rename public spaces to eliminate references to slave owners and provide more recognition for people from historically marginalized population groups who have contributed to the city’s development, and a proposal to establish a joint Rochester-Monroe County commission to plan and receive state and federal funding for events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.
- Antoine McDonald hosted an in-person workshop for the elder members of his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, Theta Omicron chapter. He presented on the myriad online and in-person resources

and services available throughout the Rochester Public Library system. He collaborated with the Tech Center to provide laptops for participants so they could directly engage with the resources presented. The elders were very pleased and expressed interest in future workshops like this.

Special Collections

- Brandon Fess accessioned one new collection in March. The Charles Woolever Collection of Railroad Station Photographs consists of a set of 1958 vintage images of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh and Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg stations. While the former building is well-documented and still stands, images of the latter are rare, and the building is long gone.
- Fess continued processing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Collection on Holocaust Survivors.
- Intern Zachary Vila completed a finding-aid for the newly organized Invitations and Calling Cards collection.

Digital Projects

- Content from the City Hall Vintage and Rochester Photo File collections from *Rochester Images* was mounted on the *New York Heritage* website this month as part of the ongoing collaboration between the library and the Rochester Regional Library Council. View the collections at <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/rochester-public-library>.

Office of the City Historian

Morry prepared and submitted applications to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for roadside historic markers to mark two sites: the international headquarters and laboratory of the world's first modern franchise, the Harper Method, on East Main Street and Cab Calloway's birthplace at 108-110 Cypress Street. In addition, we received notice that a previous application for a marker for the Rapids Cemetery on Congress Avenue in the 19th Ward has been approved. We expect that marker to be installed and dedicated this summer.

Archive of Black History & Culture

Green joined McDonald and Ridarsky on the Internal Advisory Team for the Archive of Black History & Culture. The team met once in March. Members approved an application process to be used to recruit members for a community advisory board for the project and resumed work reviewing finding aids for racist and/or culturally insensitive language and content.

Social Media

Two new posts to the *Local History ROCs!* blog received 55 views in March: "Genealogy Books & Periodicals & a New Genealogy Specialist, Oh My! Part 1: Where and How to Begin Finding Your Ancestors," by Hope Christansen, and "The Play's the Thing: A History of Cook's Opera House, Part One" by Christopher Brennan. In addition to these posts, readers from 25 countries revisited 158 previously published posts for a total of 1,885 views. The most popular posts were "'A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore 'Sammy G' Gingo'" (75 views), "The Fiery Cross: The Forgotten History of the Ku Klux Klan in Western New York" (68 views), and "Kool Things: The History of the J. Hungerford Smith Company" (66 views). All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- The See It First Matinee movie showed “West Side Story.”
- Two Brown Bag Book Discussions talked about the book *Premonition* by Michael Lewis. The first discussion was in-person and the second was via Zoom.

Anecdotes/Other

- RMC did a display for Women’s History, a “Green” movie display, and a “New Arrivals” display for each format. They also started producing a brochure showing new media acquisitions and will continue to produce these monthly.

Science and History, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs

- Renée Kendrot hosted Tai Chi for EveryBODY via Zoom presented by Sifu Jean Sica, Owner/Operator of The Business of Mindfulness and Tai Chi For EveryBODY. Sarah Ormond from the BIC co-hosted and helped with promoting the program.
- Lily Anthony hosted The Montgomery Bus Boycott, via Zoom, presented by Mark Sample, History Professor at MCC. Kendrot acted as co-host. Both staff members were in the building on what proved to be a very busy night at the reference desk. They did a nice job juggling duties.
- Gabe Pellegrino hosted Race Amity, the Other Tradition via Zoom, presented by retired RIT Imaging Professor Omobowale Ayorinde and local businessperson Joseph D. Fagnoli. The presentation discussed a history of working together and building friendships, the formation of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), and the Urban League, going back to the first Race Amity Conference in 1921.
- This month’s Got Health? program, in collaboration with URMC Center for Community Health & Prevention, was titled: Add Spice to Your Life with Healthy and Flavorful Cooking! We promote this monthly recorded presentation which is posted on the Center’s web page and subsequently shared through the Central Library’s Facebook page.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Richards attended the first Rochester Grant Writers Network meeting with Amy Hall from Rochester Regional Health, who is in charge of the new network. Planning for future speakers was discussed. Richards also talked about Candid and the 24-hour day pass and encouraged people to make appointments to search FDO Professional (Foundation Directory Online). Lily Anthony was also available for a basic overview of searching the directory.
- CCAC – Cancer Community Advisory Council – Pellegrino attended the monthly meeting of the Council, as well as the Community-Driven Cancer Research Group, and the Education/Community Engagement subgroup. The subgroup is working toward promoting various goals, which may include video production done here at the Central Library. In future months, there will be fewer meetings as goals are reached.
- LROC – There were about 50 people this month. In addition to adding Wednesday mornings to the LROC schedule, the Division now has the Legal Assistance of Western New York working with clients on Friday afternoons. LawNY has only been in place a few weeks and has screened about six people. A new LROC flyer has been published by the Graphics department and is being distributed to branch libraries and various divisions of the Central Library.

- Pellegrino also spoke late in March with Joseph D. Fagnoli, the co-presenter of the Race Amity program. Fagnoli is interested in setting up a monthly seminar series/group participation meeting on Social Action in the local community.
- Anthony and Pedro Nuñez from the Technology Center attended the ROC Youth Community Resource & Employment Fair at the MCC Downtown Campus. They spoke about the resources offered by the Job Information Center, and how Technology Center staff can assist patrons with job searching online. Nuñez also talked about the ImagineYou lab in Teen Central, for those teens interested in music production or other new media. Visitors to the fair were surprised to learn how much the library has to offer including Civil Service study material and books on resume and cover letter writing.

Anecdotes/Other

- Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library had a donor reach out to give money for a book on Eagle Scouts. Richards found the most recent and comprehensive book available: *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* by Alvin Towley (2016). Friends notified the donor, who was elated with the book chosen.
- Richards had put up a display of book titles for Women's History Month. A man sitting at one of the tables near the reference desk noticed the display and checked out 36 books from the display. He had so many titles that she wheeled a book truck down to Circulation for him with all of the titles on it. Richards filled up the display again with new titles and he came up to the floor and grabbed more titles. He stated: "This is amazing!"

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

The daily number of questions recorded by the Technology Center in March increased modestly over the number recorded in February. The daily computer usage increased modestly in March. There is a steady rise in the need to help patrons with ID.me as patrons are routinely sent to this website before filing their taxes online.

Programs

The Technology Center's in-person programming has restarted. Judith Schewe is coordinating a weekly computer instruction program focused on software and application. Pedro Nunez is coordinating a weekly mobile device instructional program. They are also looking forward to hosting a rotation of classes provided by Digital Literacy Volunteers. Before the pandemic, most of the volunteer classroom instructors were retired high school and middle school teachers. Some of these volunteers have chosen to not return. As soon as a new pool of instructors has been trained, weekly classes will begin in the Technology Center's classroom. They will be teaching using Northstar's digital literacy curriculum (www.digitalliteracyassessment.org). This unique program will allow users to learn at their own pace, take tests, and earn certificates of achievement in topics from basic computer use to Excel to social media.

Anecdotes/Other

Over a month ago, one of our patrons lost her job. It's not a pleasant experience for anyone but being unemployed was something she had never faced. She came to the library to download the forms and make the appointments needed to begin the process of applying for unemployment insurance. 18 months ago, this would not have been an onerous task. Now, every little anomaly (an ID with an old address or one that still had her married name on it) was a major roadblock. 18 months ago, you could still get an appointment to have a caseworker help fix these problems. Some of these might have been corrected on the spot. Each of these processes seems to have been moved to an entirely online environment and involves several New York State agencies. Hours are required to file all the necessary forms and more hours to follow new identification

protocols. To follow up on and respond to requests for more information and clarifications required well over a dozen trips to the library. She made several appointments with staff to help her through the mechanics of the project. Exactly one month to the day after submitting her first online forms, the application process was completed. The patron caught Judith Schewe off guard with a rib-cracking bear hug and an emotional expression of gratitude when the final form was accepted, and the application was completed.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

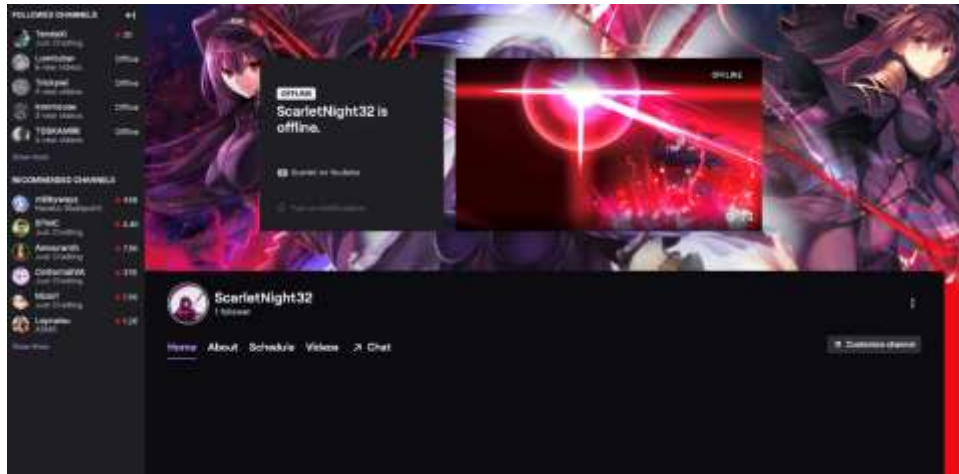
Programs

- Learn to Code: There are now engaged learners using the Library Coding Program Google Drive where they can access the course content, contribute code, and share information and resources with other learners. A few learners have suggested new topics they're interested in, including a class to learn how to create a mobile app that's connected to one's E-commerce website (Word Press website). Fae Jahanshiri is currently helping one patron set up her mobile Android app.
- Craft 'n' Chat: Teens enjoy making bracelets with beads or crocheting while socializing. We have accepted many suggestions for summer crafts and are checking with our approved vendors to ensure we can procure the supplies.
- Hidden Figures movie screening: While celebrating Women's History Month teens were encouraged to watch the Hollywood portrayals of the Iconic African American women working for NASA, who served as the brains behind the launch of the astronaut, John Glenn, into space. Those who watched participated in a small crossword activity about the ladies' lives and enjoyed snacks.
- This month Carnell Jones produced the Frederick Douglass Urban Storytelling video with the help of 8th grader Na'ilah Bey, 5th grader Nazir Bey, and Mayor Malik Evans. You can check out the video below: [Frederick Douglas Rochester literary Hero FINAL.mp4](#)
- We also filmed a virtual tour of the Secret Room for entry into the Digies, Digital Media Festival.



- The Glowforge was used this month to make the panels for a custom-built scoreboard. It was also used for Indigenous nation badges.
- We are continuing to plan the launch of our E-Sports team after joining the North American Scholastic Esports Federation last month. This month we helped hopeful streamer "Scarletnight32" start his twitch page with a custom wallpaper, profile picture, and offline image.





- Digital Art – Our first entry into the Digies this year came from Na'ilah Bey with this illustration done on our Wacom drawing tablet. This is also our latest ceiling tile:

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Jahanshiri and Shetora Banks both attended Central New York Library Council's Best Practices for Serving LGBTQ Patrons.
- Jahanshiri attended How to Talk to Children and Teens about Race.
- Banks attended WXXI's Finding Your Roots Digital Storytelling Workshop.
- Banks attended the Open Mic night at The Black Coffee Lounge to support one of the teens as he performed some original material; his presence was awesome! Together we gushed about all the services the library has to offer.

Humble and kind

