



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: May 16, 2022  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – May 2022

## ***Action Items***

### **Approval of Proposed 2023 MCLS Budget (Harrison)**

Enclosed is the proposed 2023 MCLS Budget, which was distributed for review by the Finance Committee and MCLS Director's Council before the Board meeting. Below is a summary of expense changes:

1. We have confirmed a 3% increase in RPL Central public operations support from Monroe County (an increase of \$212,300 for a total of \$7,291,300), and no use of the MCLS fund balance for Central Library operations.
2. We are proposing an increase in training (\$5,000) reflecting increased costs of TLC's annual meeting with travel, as well as other MCLS training opportunities to benefit system staff.
3. Commercial Services decreases (-\$11,800) are due to the cyclical purchase of patron library cards for all member libraries that occurred in 2022.
4. Membership increases (\$15,900) reflect a new annual subscription to KnowBe4, an email security training and assessment service.
5. Contract Services increases (\$67,880) reflect salary and benefit increases for RPL system services.
6. Library materials increases (\$37,700) reflect a restoration of Overdrive holds placement allocation based on the increase in NYS aid and member request.
7. Note that capital finance expenses (Bonds) are maintained by the County. The 2023 debt service is estimated as revised from 2022, with principal and interest based on County guidance in fall 2022. This amount will increase in future budget cycles as MCLS fleet replacement will be bonded by 2023.
8. We also rely on County input for Vehicle Maintenance/Service estimates and the single remaining retiree medical payment annually.

On the revenue side, we are projecting flat state aid in 2023 based on projected 2022 aid increases of 5.8% as adopted in the NYS budget. Contract Payments are flat to reflect no increase in MCLS Cost Share payments as requested by member libraries.

Expense and Revenue summary along with a presentation as distributed will be reviewed at the meeting.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the proposed 2023 MCLS Budget.

**Update to 2022-23 Central Library Budget (Harrison)**

Since the joint MCLS/RPL Board approval of the Central Library budget in February, we have received confirmation of the requested 3% increase in County operating support. We also have a passed NYS budget with a Library Aid increase of 5.8%, which is positive overall (versus 2% estimated) but has a minor impact on the Central Library. This increases total revenue by \$16,000.

Several City chargebacks for department services (motor equipment, phone charges) have increased, and we have increased the Facilities maintenance budget by the balance given the known increases we have seen this year in cleaning and other supplies. Note we do not yet have the cost of living adjustment for AFSCME, APT & Confidential employees, as contract negotiations continue with AFSCME, but have budgeted 3% in wage adjustments for next year.

The revised budget is \$11,237,000; we are distributing a revised expense and revenue summary, which reflects the changes described.

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

**Central Library Program Aid FY23 (Harrison)**

As a reminder, this budget now reflects the consolidation of Central Library Development Aid and Central Book Aid into the new Central Library Services Aid Program. We expect increased flexibility to expend these formula State Aid funds beyond the past requirements of adult nonfiction and foreign language library materials in multiple formats. A committee of Public Library System Directors is working with the State Division of Library Development to modify the spending requirements. The attached summary reflects expenditures across Central service divisions as reflected in the overall operating budget.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of NYSED Central Library Development Aid for the 2022-23 budget cycle.

***Report Items***

***MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting***

**National Library Week** – The Central Library was alive with dragons during the first week of April as we celebrated National Library Week with a pair of reading dragons created by Airigami. Attendance during the week increased by more than 1000 for the entire Central Library as people visited to see the amazing sculpture. Working with the Airigami crew, especially Larry Moss and Kel Cheattle, was a dream. Rochester is truly blessed to have such talented artists. Staff throughout the library provided all sorts of dragon-related activities, from crafting dragon eggs to making wearable dragon wings. The sculpture created some much-needed levity and beauty in the library after a dreary, tense winter. Thanks are due to County executive Bello and Rochester Deputy Mayor Cunningham for helping us kick off the event.

## **MCLS Member Libraries**

**Jennifer Smathers reporting**

### **Brighton Memorial Library**

The library's roof replacement project will begin on April 25, with an anticipated end date 2.5 months later, weather permitting. Initially, a truck will vacuum the gravel on the roof. Then, the roof will be stripped, and gas lines replaced. Repairs will follow, then insulation put down. Finally, a PVC-rolled roof will be installed. The Town will take out a bond to fund this much-needed project and is also in the process of pursuing a grant to help offset costs. It will be fairly smelly and loud, but that's the nature of this kind of project. An industrial hygienist has been hired to monitor air quality for patrons and staff.

### **Chili Public Library**

- A Goodbye Storytime was held to honor Cathy Kyle who left Chili to take a position at the Central Library.
- Patrons asked and the library has changed the checkout period for BluRay and DVDs to 3 weeks unless they are a special one-week quick loan.
- Other program activities included a Marvel escape room, environmental talk, friends book sale, and **The Office** trivia night.



### **East Rochester Public Library**

- The President of the ER Friends Group, Mickey Cherry, passed away suddenly on Thursday evening, April 14. Mickey was extremely dedicated to the Book Nook and the East Rochester Public Library. She was a constant presence at the library and did so much for the library and the East Rochester community out of the kindness of her heart and her love of literacy and books.
- In happier news, we're always glad to see our younger patrons playing a game of chess using our 3D printed pieces.
- Historian Anita M. Mance wrote a history celebrating the library's 100 years of service to the Community. It was shared in full on the East Rochester Public Library Facebook feed.

### **Fairport Public Library**

Six-year-old library patron and local author, Silas Drogan was featured in 13 WHAM's April 26 Bright Spot. The library is proud to have Drogan's title *Bulldozer* in the collection. *Bulldozer* is one of the approximately 1000 books he has authored to date. <https://13wham.com/features/bright-spot/bright-spot-a-young-author-and-1000-books>

### **Gates Public Library**

Gates held a program to discuss hosting a foreign exchange student, emphasizing how it helps one see through another lens and how culture affects clothes, food, and fashion, but also medicine, ideology, and world peace. Presenter Deborah Dominguez teaches English and Civics to refugees and immigrants from Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, El Salvador, Cuba, Somalia, Central African Republic, Congo, and more.

### Greece Public Library

- People of all ages have been enjoying the programming at the library. A Pete the Cat event, visiting therapy dogs, a Super Smash Bros Ultimate Nintendo Switch Tournament, Craftapalooza, and tween alcohol ink eggs were all successful.
- Patrons also participated in National Library Week by sharing what the library means to them. Here is one example,

*"I love to take the Greece Library with me wherever I go! Walking the dog, driving to work, doing housework and yard work! What I'm talking about are audiobooks! I average about 40 books a year! I can't live without them! And luckily, the Monroe County Library System and the Greece library have plenty to choose from."* -Cheryl K.



### Hamlin Public Library

- A jelly bean guessing contest from Hamlin Recreation was hosted in the library.
- New library branded book bags from the Friends of the Hamlin Public Library are available for \$10.

### Henrietta Public Library

- The evening all-ages storytime was rescheduled to Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.
- Watch Spectrum News 1 Rochester's fantastic spot on the research regular patron Karen Lankeshofer has been doing at Henrietta on pioneering Rochester-based female athlete Elsa von Blumen, a competitive walker and cyclist from the late 1800s.  
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/community/2022/03/22/spotlighting-one-of-rochester-s-first-female-athletes>

### Irondequoit Public Library

Two Irondequoit High School students organized a donation drive for Mary's Place Refugee Outreach at Irondequoit. The students and library staff were grateful for all the donations from the community.

*"We would like to thank all the community members who participated in donating to the refugees! We really appreciate it to the fullest. We hope that together we can make a small change for someone else's life right now with the things we collect! Thank you once again!"* — Hajra and Faiza



### **Mendon Public Library**

- Friends of MPL partnered with Chase's Greenhouse to sell gorgeous hanging baskets and potted flowers. Delivery was April 30, conveniently one week before Mother's Day. The Friends of MPL provide support to the library in numerous ways, including funding programs and events for children, teens, and adults.
- The Storytime and Egg Hunt organized and run by National Honor Society Students from HFL was a success!

### **Newman Riga Library**

Earth Day programs and display items were featured at the library. One display was created by Pamela Moore of the Harvey C. Noone Legion and contained photos, models, and information regarding the Living Field of Honor for Veterans and the cycle of nature. A Butterfly Puddler is on exhibit complete with instructions about how to create one to attract butterflies to your yard. Information on the life cycle of beneficial insects and the habitat that they require is also inside.

### **Ogden Farmers' Library**

- Assemblyman Josh Jenson stopped by the library to spend time with members of the walking club. They discussed work being done in the state government and the needs of the community.
- Friday, April 29 staff were joined by OFL alum Patrick Montanaro for a staff development day.



### **Parma Public Library**

- A Parma wallaby named Sydney visited along with other friends from Wildlife Rockstars.
- A walking tour of historic Hilton happened on April 28.
- Other programs this month included Earth Day Intersectional Environmentalism with Christina Das of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County and Self Defense for Seniors led by Chelsea Zerrillo.

### **Penfield Public Library**

- Spring was in the air at a myriad of programs in the library. Earth Day and rabbits were celebrated.
- Teens painted a mini earth planter.
- The festive Peter Rabbit party, Angora fiber spinning, and Angora rabbit meet 'n greet perked up lots of ears!

### **Pittsford Community Library**

- The library is anticipating the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse by sharing videos from the Rochester Museum & Science Center featuring Dan Schneiderman, the RMSC Eclipse Partnership Coordinator.

- During National Library week the library asked patrons to answer “I use the library to...” writing prompts. Some of our favorite answers were shared on Facebook. This one combined Earth Day with National Library Week: they use the library to “*Save the planet a bit by borrowing books instead of buying them.*”

### **Rush Public Library**

- Game Night at Wildwood returned to the library on April 5.
- Rush resident Doug Platt donated a beautiful ukulele to the library! The new Music-To-Go kit includes the ukulele and a case, four instructional books with songs to learn, and an electronic tuner. This donation motivated the library to create additional kits, so keep an eye out for those coming soon to the children’s room, near the Art-to-Go Kits.

### **Scottsville Free Library**

- The Wheatland Historical Society presented “Opera Houses of the Genesee” on Thursday, April 21.
- Information about the history of the library, and how it moved into Windom Hall is available at: <https://scottsvillelibrary.org/about-scottsville-library/>.

### **Seymour Library**

- The library made a concerted effort to update hours across a multitude of platforms. It can take time to get third parties to update such information, so the hours were posted to Facebook. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm, Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm, and closed on Sunday.
- In addition to showing off sprouting bean seeds planted in ice cream cones, the library is starting to design a seed library and is looking for interested volunteers.

### **Webster Public Library**

The library’s Facebook page was used to promote a long list of events and celebrations, starting with an announcement on April Fools Day that they would be sorting their books by colors of the rainbow. Other notable days included Scrabble Day, Gardening Day, the anniversary of the Titanic’s sinking, Anime Day, Librarian Day, Day of Silence, and World Book Day.

## ***MCLS Office Updates***

### ***Jennifer Smathers reporting***

#### **VIP (Very Important Places) Passes**

Throughout April Alicia Gunther worked on finalizing VIP Pass Partnership agreements for the 2022-23 season. This upcoming season MCLS will partner with 11 museums, theatres, and historic locations offering discounted admission to patrons who check out a VIP Pass from one of the MCLS member libraries and bring it to that participating location.

This season’s partners include the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse, The Genesee Country Village & Museum, The Corning Museum of Glass, GEVA Theatre, George Eastman House, The New York Museum of Transportation, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Susan B Anthony House, Sonnenburg Gardens, and Ulysses S. Grant Cottage. The MCLS Office is also hoping to add Ganondagan Seneca Bark Longhouse before the start of the new season.

CARL Reports Project

The CARL reports were explained and demonstrated at the spring MCLS Tech Services Roundtable meeting. About 28 MCLS staff attended and there were several positive comments posted in the chat after the demonstration. The upcoming decolonization project was briefly described to the group.

Central Program Team

On behalf of RPL and MCLS, Lenio attended the April stakeholder meeting for the Eclipse 2024 effort. Along with updates on progress with grants, social media and websites, and more, the group discussed and began planning sub-committees to cover the areas of Public Outreach/Science/Education, Tourism, and Transportation/Logistics. Lenio signed up for the Education sub-committee. Lenio will be asking eclipse coordinator Dan Schneiderman to give his eclipse presentation to MCLS staff in the fall to get them thinking about it as they head into 2023.

Social Media

	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	969	1,174	557	65	1	22	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	5 (2,079)	0 (2,240)	54 (5,590)	-	26 (898)	68 (2,132)	12 (384)
Engagements	99	88	4,453	45	44	647	41
Check In/ Mentions	39	22	-	-	-	9	-
Post Reach	6,326	6,345	20,099	511	-	5,214	16,125
Video/Story Views	-	-	686	-	-	341	831
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	9	-	-	9	-

**Outreach Department -Amy Discenza reporting**

General Services and Programs

- Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 10 library stations and fulfilled special requests for 9 stations.
- Outreach staff selected and delivered library materials and digital downloads to 17 homebound patrons; provided 2 one-on-one technology support sessions; and added 1 new in-home patron this month.
- In-Home Materials Distribution:
  - Home Deliveries: 12 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)
  - Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: 4 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (each cartridge included 15-25 titles selected and downloaded by Outreach staff)
  - Books by Mail: 2 patrons received physical library materials via USPS

- Outreach staff mailed out 4 reference packets to in-home patrons.
- Outreach staff received 4 requests for “Making Moves” reentry resource packets from incarcerated individuals, Transitional Coordinators, parolees, and ex-offenders; the “Making Moves” webpage received 105 views.

### Station Support Visit

Discenza and Maren Kyle made a station support visit to Cloverwood Senior Living in Pittsford. Discenza and Kyle met with Cloverwood’s Library Committee to review the site’s micro collection profile (preferred formats, quantities, genres, and authors) and discuss other collections and services available through the department. The Cloverwood Library is a welcoming and vibrant space, boasting a large collection of books donated by residents past and present. The materials provided by Outreach often fill specific resident requests.

### Outreach

Library Sampler Presentation - Discenza spoke via Zoom to a group of eight students from the April cohort of Pathstone’s Employment Focused Services Program. In her presentation, Discenza highlighted: library collections and services that are of 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, and by our neighbors, 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.

### April Spotlight

This month Discenza and Becker visited the Veteran’s Unit at the Monroe County Jail. Due to COVID restrictions, this was their first in-person support visit since February 2020 and it felt good to be back. Discenza kicked off the presentation with what she likes to think of as the library sampler: discussing the abundance of libraries in Monroe County; how to get a card or a fresh start; collections and services for job seekers and aspiring small business owners; health and human-service related programs and partnerships popping up in libraries; digital library resources; untraditional library collections; free events; and more.

Becker followed with a rich and well-received discussion of reentry resources, beginning with steps one can take while still incarcerated—such as demonstrating evidence of rehabilitation, crafting a personal statement, and getting a copy of your RAP sheet—before working his way through a variety of educational, job training, and reentry programs, as well as legal and health-related resources available in our community that folks can take advantage of upon their release. They compiled packets of information to leave behind, too.

Following Becker’s presentation, something happened that we hadn’t anticipated: four of the Veterans stood up and made a presentation for Becker and Discenza. They rolled out the unit’s book cart and showed them how they organize the materials supplied by MCLS. The Veterans keep their cart sorted by author and regularly rotate the titles from the top to bottom shelves, so each title is given a fighting chance to be discovered. Becker & Discenza were tickled to learn a few of the guys even offer readers’ advisory on Saturdays, handing out Brandon Sanderson titles to seasoned readers and Clive Cussler and Stuart Woods to new readers.



Here are some kind words Becker and Discenza received in a card from the Veterans who attended the presentation:

*"Thank you for an awesome presentation. I plan to utilize the information and resources you presented to better myself and stay focused and informed in the community."*

*"Thank you so much for the invaluable info that you presented to us. Continue to be a voice of change and hope."*

*"Thank you both for your great presentations! You don't realize the impact that intellectual stimulation does for your hope in a negative time in your life."*

## **Central Library Updates**

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

- Cynthia Dana coordinated the delivery of materials throughout MCLS for the Monroe County Board of Elections. The BOE also hosted two table events to hire more poll workers. Annette Ramos, Board of Elections, has been happy with the response from library patrons.
- For National Library Week, Dana collected information from all public service divisions into a comprehensive list of programs to present to Graphics for flyers and the website. She also purchased dragon decorations for public service areas.

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

#### Programs

- National Poetry Month-- In addition to the regular meetings of poet Kitty Jospe's "Poetry Oasis" group, there was a "Poet-Tree" event in the Dorris Carlson Reading Garden that celebrated poetry and the 150 anniversary of National Arbor Day. Poems that Kitty Jospe and librarian Mary Fraser hung from trees around the Central Library were on view throughout the month. Master Gardener Bob Pacer, who has cared for the Dorris Carlson Reading Garden for the past eight years, gave a tour of the garden and answered questions. Participants watched a video of one of the FFRPL Sokol High School Literary Award-winning poets reading her poetry, listened to readings of other poems, and enjoyed a sunny tour of the garden where the azaleas are in full bloom and birds are nesting. Most of the participants were library users who had never visited the reading garden. Pacer said, "when I'm working [in the garden] I meet people who tell me they spend their day in an office with no windows and they appreciate being able to take a break in this natural, peaceful setting."
- Melissa Manczuk hosted a week of dragon egg crafts to celebrate National Library Week. She offered patrons two different crafts: one for the adults using foam eggs and thumbtacks and the other using plastic eggs and adhesive gems. Many parents commented that it was nice to have a craft that all ages could participate in and asked if there could be more programs along similar lines.

#### Anecdotes/Other

Andrew Coyle has been busy moving books from the Reynolds Reference Room to the south wing. This is being done so the Reynolds Room can be used as a programming area for music, poetry and author readings, and other events. The Reynolds Room is a wonderful area to host programs as it overlooks the river and in the nice weather the terrace doors can be opened. This room will offer patrons a new experience as they attend our programs.

## ***Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting***

### Statistics

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 5 in person, 48 by email, 1 by mail, and 7 by phone.
- Webpage views: 51
- 3D Printer: 19
- Hours of in-depth market research: 77
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 8
- Tracy Jong appointments: 1 hour, 1 individual served

### Database Use

- Frost & Sullivan: Page Views: 10; Value \$28,100
- IBISWorld: Page Views 195; Value \$61,225
- InnovationQ: Logins 5; Searches 34
- PitchBook: Logins 22
- Statista: Visits 308; Downloads 50

### Programs

- Business First Wednesday: Supply Chain. Presented by John Hogg of Straight Forward Consulting.
- Cannabis Industry Meet-Up: Dispensaries. Presented by Glenna Colaprete, horticulture faculty at Finger Lakes Community College.

### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh met with Excell Partners to discuss the formation of a collaborative team. Excell Partners is a Venture Capital firm that invests in high-tech high-growth startups in upstate New York. Excell will request that companies they refer to BIC donate to FFRPL. Byrnes and Meddaugh will attend pitches to provide feedback to companies, provide background information on companies, and support the companies in their portfolio with market research.
- Byrnes continues to have multiple meetings around cannabis with the City's Cannabis Business Preparation Team, the State's Office of Cannabis Management, and the legacy community. She attended the City's first public comment meeting and helped field questions.
- Byrnes and Melissa Cobo attended multiple meetings each month for the Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) through the US Small Business Administration. Only three other public libraries in the US are participating in the CNPP program: Laramie County Library System (WY), Allen County Public Library (Fort Wayne, IN), and Central Arkansas Library System (Little Rock). The American Library Association has brought the four institutions together and we will meet regularly to discuss our experiences, challenges, and successes.

### Anecdotes/Other

- Byrnes was interviewed by Sallyann Price of the American Library Association for the podcast "Dewey Decibel," discussing financial literacy. <https://soundcloud.com/dewey-decibel-703453552/episode-70-making-financial-sense>
- The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office hired Second Avenue Learning to build a webpage for student inventors as well as resources for teachers. Victoria Vanhooris, CEO of Second Avenue Learning, contacted Meddaugh to help with researching patents for the content of the website.

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

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton facilitated the MCLS Children's Services meeting in April. Representatives from the Willow Center joined this month to share their work with people experiencing domestic violence. Staff shared their experiences and staff from Willow provided some tips and resources for use. Many libraries have needed Willow to serve patrons and some shared the difficult stories. This was a very emotional meeting and speaks to the amazing services our libraries offer all over the county.
- Burton is organizing a retreat for MCLS Children's Librarians in May that will address strategies for welcoming patrons back to our libraries, social media safety and harassment, and a session that will help staff process some of the difficult situations that have occurred in the system recently.

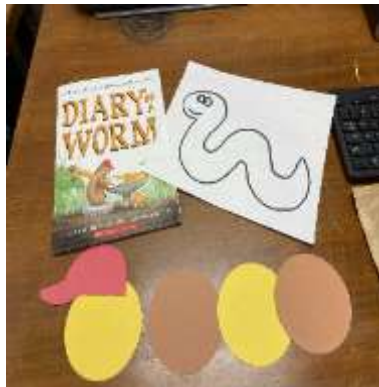
#### Programs

- April was the Month of the Young Child for early educators. This year Katie Powell and Burton organized community readers for online storytimes. With the help of Director Uttaro, they were able to secure some star readers: Mayor Evans and County Executive Bello. Other star readers were Luis Perez from Greater Rochester Summer Learning; Shamika Fusco, Lyell Branch Manger; and Bonita Williams, Parent Educator with Rochester City School Pre K program.
- April opened with the National Library Week Dragon programming. Families visited the balloons in Rundel and visited the Children's Center for a dragon scavenger hunt, Make Your Own Dragon, and the letter D activity.
- Spring break began with the reopening of the Secret Room! Kathleen Blasi shared her new picture book, Milo's Moonlight Mission as the inaugural program. Children then made their rockets and watched NASA live Stream on the wall. Jeff Bostic from imagineYOU caught some patron reactions on camera for us. See the video here:  
[https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jeffery\\_bostic\\_libraryweb\\_org/\\_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FThe%20Secret%20Room%20Grand%20Opening%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments&ct=1652107075872&or=OWA%2DNT&cid=f13e2801%2D0eb4%2Dcffc%2Db8ec%2Da3828a5c08c1&ga=1](https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FThe%20Secret%20Room%20Grand%20Opening%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments&ct=1652107075872&or=OWA%2DNT&cid=f13e2801%2D0eb4%2Dcffc%2Db8ec%2Da3828a5c08c1&ga=1)
- Other spring break programs were African Drumming & Dance from Hochstein, Backyard Birdfeeder Make & Take, Recycle bookmarks, bird identification scavenger hunt, and open play in the Secret Room.
- The Children's Center organized a Spring Egg Hunt in collaboration with Fidelis Care. Other Central departments joined in and offered hunting in Science, Teen, and Art/Lit. Ana Suro and Cynthia Dana assisted with the organization and gave out books from the Books By Bike. Community partners joined to share information including Monroe County Vaccine Clinic, Foodlink, and WXXI. Margarita Chaves offered early literacy activities for Raising A Reader families and staff from all over Central helped throughout the day with hiding eggs, finding eggs, and traffic flow. One young author shared the story they created about dinosaurs and the library.



### Raising A Reader

Throughout the month, Margarita Chaves continued with weekly bilingual storytimes at the Ibero Site. Chaves also completed some outreach by delivering the last of our literacy skill-focused activity bags to all sites. This month the slide presentation for "Mi Comunidad" (My Community) was shared with Ibero families. Chaves also shared with other sites the slide presentation for, "The Diary of A Worm." All sites received activity bags containing extension activities based on the stories and each presentation focused on a particular literacy skill.



### Anecdotes/Other

- Many visitors have visited the Secret Room since it re-opened. We have been able to take suggestions for items kids would like to have in the space. Everyone loves the newly designed space, and one young patron said that on a scale of one to ten she gives it a Bazillion!
- Rochester's Playbook shared a story on their Facebook page: <https://rochesterplaybook.com/central-library>
- Burton received this message from a patron:  
*"The Monroe County library system is such an underutilized asset to our community. As a mother of three girls, two of which have a developmental disability (Autism and Down syndrome) I am constantly on the lookout for places that we can not only be included but be safe and cared for in an environment that can support their varying sensory needs. I am IMMENSELY grateful for the Secret Room at the Downtown Public Library. There is no other place in Rochester (that I have found) that has such a perfect space integrated into the general design of a public space that is not only safe for my girls but is welcoming and fun! The toys that are in this space are perfect for them, the interactive projector wall keeps them up and moving while the toys help them to build their imagining skills. I am so grateful to have this space open again and look forward to spending a LOT of time there this summer!"*

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

#### Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 8  
New Borrowers - 135  
RRLC Access Cards Issued - 4  
Notarial Acts – 196

### Anecdotes/Other

- Chad Cunningham worked with staff members at the Brighton, Irondequoit, and Pittsford libraries to resolve an issue for a patron. The patron has a traumatic brain injury and communicates best through writing. Cunningham acted as an intermediary for the patron to help resolve the issue. This issue was very timely, as an e-mail thread on the Monroe County Library System mailing list recently discussed dealing with patrons with issues such as traumatic brain injuries.
- Kathy Sochia helped a patron who was very grateful that the library had Covid-19 testing kits to hand out. He may have been exposed to Covid, and we were the closest place he knew of that had testing kits available.
- Sochia also sent an inactive library card and a library bookmark to an artist in California. The artist is incorporating library cards from all over the country into an art piece she is creating. Sochia asked her to send us photos of the finished project.
- Jim Montione was working at the Information Desk when a little face appeared and said "Hello!" Jim returned the child's greeting and offered her a sticker. As soon as he did a second face appeared wanting a sticker too. The children said thank you while their parents watched. Never underestimate the power of stickers to bring people together.
- This Circulation desk had a small dragon display for National Library Week.



### **Local History & Genealogy, Michelle Finn reporting**

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

- Leah Green hosted the first in a series of new genealogy programs. *Heritage Tales: A Monthly Genealogy Program* is a discussion series featuring a different guest speaker each month. April's presenter was local activist Ernest Green, who discussed his 10-year search to find his father and siblings based solely on a phonetic spelling of the last name. The program was well attended, with patrons lingering afterward to explore the division's genealogy databases and other resources.
- The *Rochester's Rich History* series featured a talk by Jessica Lacher-Feldman, Exhibits and Special Projects Manager for Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation at the University of Rochester. Entitled "AIDS Education Posters at the University of Rochester: The Collection, the Collector, and the Exhibition," the talk featured a River Campus Libraries collection and was ancillary to the exhibition currently on display at the Memorial Art Gallery, *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*. It was offered in-person and via Zoom, and a recording is available on the library's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/-gOzj9ueKfY>.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Early in April, we learned that community LGBTQ+ archivist and historian Evelyn Bailey's cancer is progressing faster than anticipated. As a result, Christine Ridarsky has been working closely with Bailey to preserve the legacy of her Shoulders to Stand On documentation, preservation, and education initiatives. With the support of the Board of Directors of the Out Alliance, which has served as fiscal sponsor, Bailey has transferred the program to the library. In addition, Ridarsky has been assisting Bailey and staff from the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library in outreach related to a campaign to seed an endowed

fund established by Bailey. To watch a video (created by Jeff Bostic in the library's ImagineYou lab) about Bailey's fund and contribute, visit <https://ffrpl.libraryweb.org/shoulders-to-stand-on-endowment-fund/>.

- Ridarsky met with Maria McCashion, New York State Archives Regional Advisory Officer for City Governments, City Clerk Hazel Washington, and staff from the City's Information Technology Department to review operations and procedures at the City's Records Center. McCashion will be preparing a report outlining her recommendations that the City can use in strategic planning for records management.
- Brandon Fess advised former library board member George Wolf on the preservation and digitization of a Civil War diary he inherited from his family. The item is fragile but readable, and Fess recommended local repositories where Wolf might consider entrusting it. The diary's author was from Berks County, Pennsylvania, so the Rochester Public Library is not an ideal repository for it.

### Special Collections

- The Library Automation Services team is upgrading ArchivesSpace, the software used to accession and create finding aids for the library's special collections. Accession and finding aid work are on pause until the upgrade is complete.
- Green reviewed and reboxed material from two genealogy collections in April: Genealogical Roundtable Irondequoit Chapter Family Records and Kodak Genealogy Club. She will create finding aids for these collections when ArchivesSpace is again available.
- Fess 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. He also continued in-house conservation work on damaged and/or fragile items from the map collection.

### Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 58 views in April: "The Play's the Thing: A History of Cook's Opera House, Part Two," and "Deeply Rooted: Rochester's Ukrainian Community, Part One," both by Christopher Brennan. In addition to these posts, readers from 22 countries revisited 151 previously published posts for a total of 2,654 views. "A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore 'Sammy G' Gingo" continues to be the most popular post; it received a whopping 223 views in April! Also popular was "Forgotten Firm: The Crosby Frisian Fur Company," which received 132 views. All posts can be read online at [www.rochistory.wordpress.com](http://www.rochistory.wordpress.com).

### Interns/Volunteers

- Volunteer Kaye Knoll continued processing the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club records. Knoll contributed 2 hours in April.
- Volunteer Noeme Liestman continued sorting and arranging 35mm slides in the Roger B. Smith collection. Liestman contributed 4 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 3 hours this month.
- Intern Zachary Vila (SUNY Geneseo) continued sorting, arranging, and rehousing items in the concert program collection. Vila contributed 48 hours in April.

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

### Programs

- First Friday Film (*Belfast*) was shown 4/1.
- See It First Matinee (*Spider-Man; No Way Home*) was shown Saturday, 4/16.

## ***MCLS Director's Report – May 2022 (Continued)***

- During National Library Week, RMC showed the film *The Last Dragon* on 4/6 in the Kate Gleason Auditorium and showed various dragon-themed films (3 or 4 each day) on the large monitor in the division.
- On April 8, RMC hosted the tuba group "Cerberus Trio."
- April 27, RMC held the Brown Bag Book Discussion program in person, talking about the book *Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

### Statistics

RMC rented 15 pieces of equipment and 227 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,804 items or 35% of the Central Library's total circulation of 13,708 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog, and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC totaled 9,811 circulations.

### Database Use

#### Hoopla

- Circulation 1639
- Users – 461

### Anecdotes/Other

- A patron found a PS4 Video game in the collection which was one he had been looking for and hadn't been able to find--he was very excited to be able to try it out before he bought it. "You guys are the best, thank you so much," he said several times.
- RMC purchased a streaming kit for installation in the Kate Gleason Auditorium (KGA). There will be one camera permanently installed in KGA with a laptop and software for high-quality streaming capability. There is also a second camera that can be used in KGA on a tripod or in any other location. This second camera will stream to Facebook directly once logged onto the Wi-Fi. Most of the equipment arrived and was installed during April. The remaining equipment and installation should be completed during May. The money for this endeavor came from the Kroll Trust Fund (earmarked for Media Center uses) through FFRPL.

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

### Programs

- Medical student Richard Lander was the latest Community Health student from URMC. He conducted four in-house health clinics, checking weight, blood pressure, blood sugar, and heart rate. About 15 people took advantage of these clinics. Lander also created a two-page flyer on low back pain, adapting material from reputable medical sources. While there was a flyer produced to promote the clinics, it is clear that announcing them over the public address system is very effective, as it is for LROC and other programs.
- Gabe Pellegrino hosted two sessions with the Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester Chapter. The sessions were an overview of the work of HLAA, along with a demonstration of the assistive hearing devices that are spotlighted on the website. Finally, the last part of the program was a demonstration of the Hearing Kiosk, which is a small tablet that can be used by individuals to self-test their hearing. Pellegrino and several other staff members, along



with a few patrons, tested their hearing with the Kiosk. They (HLAA) were pleased with the number of people who came by. They are convinced that with the ease of using the Hearing Kiosk, Health Central would be a good location for one if they can raise the funds for it.

- LROC – More than 40 people met with LROC this month. Among this number, 10 were for Legal Assistance of Western New York on Friday afternoons.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Gabe Pellegrino hosted this month's meeting of the Wilmot Cancer Community Action Council's Education/ Community Engagement subgroup. The proposal for the creation of video programs, to be created in Spanish with American Sign Language, has gone out. The plan is to use the library's studio and equipment in Teen Central for the videos on clinical trials in cancer research.



#### Anecdotes/Other

A young man who has met with our regular social worker from LROC invited a friend from the shelter where he is housed to introduce her to services here at the library. He gave her a brief tour and picked up coloring sheets for the children at the shelter.

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

The daily number of questions recorded by the Technology Center in April increased slightly while the daily computer usage increased modestly. As the precautions surrounding Covid have relaxed, the Technology Center has essentially eliminated restrictions on computer time extensions. The Technology Center is becoming a busier place, but with the tax season behind us, it remains quite manageable.

#### Programs

- The Technology Center's in-person programming is picking up some speed. Pedro Nunez's gaming group has seen an uptick in attendance. Nunez has reached out to the broader gaming community and has been highlighting the Central Library as a location that could accommodate several groups at the same time. His promotion of the library as a venue for this kind of activity has been very appealing to several other groups.
- Judy Schewe and Nunez have been holding classes on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The initial attendance has been light but increased attendance is anticipated.

#### Anecdotes/Other

Meet F. A few weeks ago, he came in to reset his New York State online password, which required a quick verification through ID.me. He had all the required documents, but he needed more than the usual amount of support from staff because, he said, his vision was pretty blurry that morning. His attention frequently wandered, and he needed encouragement to stay focused on the project. The staff was a bit frustrated because he didn't seem particularly engaged. After a relatively uneventful hour and a half of navigating ID.me, with staff doing most of the typing for him, he reached his objective. He thanked the staff for helping him and apologized for being hard to work with because of his eyesight and memory issues. As he was packing up, he mentioned that he was relatively new to Rochester and was happy to know the library was a place he could get this kind of help. He explained that he joined the military many years ago and went on to say: *"I guess the bombs affected*



my hearing. Serving in the artillery probably didn't help. But when I got back, they told me it was the big explosions that permanently affected my eyesight and that's why I have a hard time with my memory and keeping focused on things like filling out forms. Especially on a computer screen," he added with an eye roll and a chuckle. "So, thanks for your help, I really appreciate it."

### Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

#### Programs

- Learn to Code sessions were offered in April and the content is evolving. Engaged learners are 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 patron is learning how to create a mobile app that's connected to her e-commerce website and a young patron is learning how to make a game with Python Pygame. Another young patron is interested in learning HTML and CSS.
- Sewing Classes: Interest in learning to sew continues to soar. We have decided to procure a couple of machines in our department and include sewing activities in our summer crafting programs.
- Video/Photo Production: This month we had two entries into the Digies, Digital Media Festival. Here you can check out 3rd grader Queen's Secret Room Virtual Tour: [Secret Room Virtual Tour.mp4](#)
- The Glowforge was a hit this month. During National Library Week kids enjoyed making dragons. Five different kids wanted an image of their cats instead of a dragon. We made dragons for the Mayor and County Executive for the National Library Week press conference. The Glowforge continued to have extensive use, including lots of wristbands.



- E-Sports – The gaming computers were in near-constant use this month, especially during spring break. We are continuing to plan the launch of our e-sports team after joining the North American Scholastic Esports Federation. We may enter kids into the summer e-sports tournaments before an official team is assembled.



- Digital Art – Our drawing tablet got some great use once again this month. Check out the Batman Who Laughs illustration that will be added to our ceiling art:



- Music Studio – We certified four more teens this month. Sonysha has begun recording a podcast in the studio and already completed a few episodes.

#### Anecdotes/Other

School #58 brought a career-focused group of students to visit the Teen Center and ImagineYou lab. We ventured to the third floor Career Center and Renee Kendrot spoke about the civil service exam and application process. The students were engaged; when we returned to the Teen Center, we logged into the City's website and examined the background needed to qualify for each job and other details the posts provided. The next week the Teen Center received "Thank You" letters from some of the students.