



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: June 20, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – June 2022

Action Items

Trustee Appointments (Shelly)

The MCLS Nominating Committee recommends reappointment to the board for full five-year terms: Peter Knapp and Amy Moffitt. If approved, these names will be forwarded to the Monroe County Legislature for official appointment.

Board Actions Requested: Approval of the Nominating Committee’s recommendation of Peter Knapp to be appointed by the Monroe County Legislature to the MCLS Board of Trustees for the term of July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2027.

Approval of the Nominating Committee’s recommendation of Amy Moffitt to be appointed by the Monroe County Legislature to the MCLS Board of Trustees for the term of July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2027.

Election of Officers (Shelly)

The MCLS Nominating Committee puts forth the following slate of officers for the term of July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023:

- President - Suzanne Stockman
- Vice President - Christopher Corcoran

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed slate of officers for the term July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

Monroe County Library System Annual Report to New York State (Uttaro)

Each year, all library systems in New York State are required to submit an annual report to the Division of Library Development in the New York State Education Department. This data-filled report informs the DLD of current contact information for library trustees, frequency of meetings, finances, network specifics, and results of work on the system Plan of Service. Some highlights include:

Data Point	2021	2020
Professional development sessions offered by the system	53	49
Professional development session attendance	516	448
Interlibrary loan activity	8,135	5,465
Consulting contacts with member libraries	12,683	17,805

A copy of the report is included with your packet.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the 2021 MCLS Annual Report to NYSED.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

E-Content Collection Development Policy – A member library director recently asked about how challenges to e-content in the system collection would be handled. This caused an older policy to be reviewed and sparked some discussion about whether the system needs a collection development policy. Associate Director Smathers and Director Uttaro will open a discussion with the board on this topic. Past policy drafts are included with the packet. The initial document developed in 2013 was not a system policy as it was approved by the Directors' Council but not the MCLS Board, making it an agreement among members versus a true policy. If the board agrees that a board-approved policy for the system is in order, Smathers and Uttaro will work on drafting one for future consideration.

Advocacy Update – Jennifer Smathers and Alicia Gunther traveled to Albany to attend the New York Library Association's "Spring on the Hill" conference. They were able to network with library advocates from around the state, attended helpful workshops, and met with most of our local delegations.

On the heels of a successful advocacy season, MCLS received confirmation of grants-in-aid to several member libraries. Director Uttaro worked with staff from Senator Brouk's office and with member Directors Greg Benoit, Carl Gouveia, Amanda Madigan, and Rhonda Rossman to develop a program proposal for the Senator. This resulted in the following grants: Irondequoit - \$17,500; Fairport - \$17,500; Pittsford - \$20,000; Penfield - \$20,000; Rochester - \$20,000. Pittsford, Penfield & Rochester will pool their grants to develop an author series in 2023. Two libraries are set to receive grants from Assemblymember Meeks: Gates - \$30,000; and Parma - \$25,000.

Gunther and Smathers met with MCLS Trustee Hessney-Lynch to discuss the upcoming work for the MCLS Advocacy Committee. In addition, Uttaro has asked the Rochester Regional Library Council to re-convene the Rochester-Area Library System Directors group, which hasn't met in several years. This group brings together directors from public and school systems with RRLC and works to plan a more regional approach to advocacy.

Speakers Consortium Added by RPL – Jennifer Lenio, RPL's Collections Manager, recently added a new service called the Library Speakers Consortium. This is an exciting new subscription service that offers a wide range of virtual author talks including fiction and nonfiction authors. There are about two to three author talks every month, with Q&A sessions. These programs are unlimited in attendance, recorded, and archived for \$3500 per year, which is generously covered by Friends & Foundation of RPL. The first talks will be offered in July and are open to all residents of Monroe County. The service includes a micro-branded website (<https://libraryc.org/roccitylibrary>) where patrons will be able to get information on the talks and register for them.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Brighton Memorial Library

- In May, the tunes in the library were not limited to the Sunday Serenades programming. Saturday, May 7, the library burst out in music during the WWII Era Sing-along with author and vocalist Maggie Paxson. Maggie led the audience in sing-alongs from the 1930s and 1940s that helped inspire her book *The Plateau*. Song sheets were provided with support for the program coming from the Friends of BML.

MCLS Director's Report – June 2022 (Continued)

- Dr. George Smith presented a session about the motivation behind Brighton's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program, and the Town Conservation Board's role related to native tree planting in our neighborhoods, Arbor Day plantings, the Town Tree Survey, tree-trimming, & invasive species control in town parks. For maximum participation, the program was held both in-person and via zoom.
- The month of May often features the return of spring peepers and their melodious calls. Saturday the 18th the library celebrated reptiles and amphibians for fans of all ages with their Herp-A-PaloOZA! A Herpetology Extravaganze. Events included froggy storytimes and crafts, guided walks, and a presentation by John Bateman, Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation, FLCC.

Chili Public Library

- The new library has been open for an entire year! The library celebrated by posting patron comments from when the library opened in the Chili Community Center including this small sampling:
 - "I love the space and seeing all of your lovely faces again! 😊 -Emily"*
 - "I love the sunlight shining in all parts of the library! Thank you for bringing the sun "in" while looking for a good book! -Kristen"*
 - "I like the new toy section at the library – Henry"*
 - "I like they have computers the old one had them shut down, -Desmond"*
- On May 24, the Lions Club of Chili presented us with a \$500 check from a grant they received. The money was used to purchase 10 children's Wonderbooks (a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside). The grant was to be used to help purchase materials that would benefit those with visual impairments. They also gave us an additional \$1000 of their funds to purchase more Wonderbooks!

East Rochester Public Library

- The library hosted an in-person Kinetic Sand Competition. Children are challenged to see if they can build the BEST CASTLE EVER! The Library supplied sand to each participant, who had to bring any tools they wanted to shape their creation. All creations will be displayed for a week, and people were able to vote on their favorite one. The winners are announced the following Friday and receive a prize.
- At a special event on May 19, in the Jean Daniel Senior Center located in the Eyer Building across from the Library, Steven Hess recounted his story of surviving the Holocaust. He was born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1938. Mr. Hess spent his childhood years under Nazi occupation. He and his family, including his parents and twin sister, were in both the Westerbork and Bergen Belsen concentration camps during the period 1942 to 1945. They were liberated by Russian troops while on a train transport en route to an Eastern European extermination camp. The family eventually returned to Holland and immigrated to the United States on January 1, 1947.

Fairport Public Library

Mighty Machine Mania featured the Monroe County Library System delivery truck



- Sensory Playtime feedback:

"We came to Sensory Playtime today, and I wanted to thank the children's librarians for this AMAZING program!! I am continuously in awe of how inclusive your children's programming is. My little guy has sensory needs and Celiac Disease. There was a special table for gluten-free play dough, purposefully positioned far away from the table with regular play dough. It had a sign for the gluten-free table in an effort to prevent cross-contamination and even had each tool labeled as gluten-free. My son and I left the library feeling empowered. Before going to bed tonight, my little one asked, "When can we go back to the library to play?!" Thank you for being so welcoming to all families and all children. We love Fairport Library! ❤️" -Emily Milazzo



- Assemblymember Jen Lunsford recognized Pat Rapp with a 2022 Woman of Distinction proclamation. Pat dedicated 26 years of service at the Fairport Public Library, before retiring earlier this year. She is the former chair of the Rochester Makerspace, co-chair of Maker Faire Rochester, and a member of the Fairport Public Arts Committee. Also recognized by Jen Lunsford for her contributions to the community and library was MCLS Board President, Suzanne T. Stockman.



Gates Public Library

- May 2 - 8 was Children's Book Week. Patrons were encouraged to come in each day for a new collectible bookmark. They could also enter a raffle for a \$10 Barnes & Noble gift card.
- The library held a reading event on May 21 in the Assini Meeting Room, with the Town of Gates Police Chief Robert Long, as part of National Get Caught Reading Month. There was time for Q & A at the end and to meet and greet other Gate Police Officers. Among those caught in May was Town of Gates Historian, Bill Gillette, reading the Gates Cornerstone!



Greece Public Library

The Teen Bookmark Contest was sponsored by the Friends of the Greece Library. Congratulations to all our winners!

- First place: Mouse House by Anna B.
- Second place: Bookshelf with Mice by Madeline K.
- Third place: "I Stay up Past my Bedtime" by Madelyn G.
- Fourth place: Sunflowers by Maddalena M.
- Fifth place: Reading is for Everyone - Even Sharks by Helen C.
- Sixth place: Reading - a World of Wonder by MacKenzie C.
- Honorable Mention: Read Slowly Sloth by Savannah S.
- Honorable Mention: Relax with a Good Book by Emma G.
- Honorable Mention: Reading Takes You to Another World by Riley P.
- Honorable Mention: The Bookworms by Emily A.

Winning Bookmarks are available at the information desk.

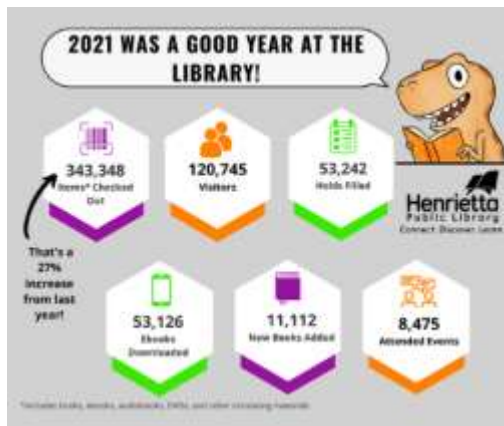


Hamlin Public Library

The library stocked the kids' area with Star Wars activities and books to celebrate May the Fourth Be with You.

Henrietta Public Library

- In the Community Room on May 12, Democrat and Chronicle education reporter Justin Murphy discussed the findings in his new book, *Your Children Are Very Greatly in Danger: School Segregation in Rochester, New York*. Drawing on never-before-seen archival documents as well as scores of new interviews, Murphy showed how discriminatory public policy and personal prejudice combined to create the racially segregated education system that exists in the Rochester area today.
- The Town of Henrietta's Memorial Day parade was a blast! Our mascot, TR enjoyed riding around in Miss Cathy's fancy yellow car.



Irondequoit Public Library

- In May the library's new website debuted with a more modern look and a mobile-friendly design: <https://irondequoitlibrary.org>. Through the website, you can sign up for a weekly newsletter that delivers a recap of every book, audiobook, DVD, and music CD the library has added in the last seven days. Thousands of new additions are made to the library each year, this newsletter, powered by Wowbrary, is the absolute best way to keep on top of our collection (and to grow your To-Read pile)!
- For those interested in starting a podcast or recording oral history, the library now has professional audio recording equipment available for home use! Make professional-sounding recordings, podcasts, and interviews with the library's new Zoom H4n Audio Recorders in Podcast and Oral History kits.

Mendon Public Library

- The library continues to celebrate Monroe County's bicentennial and was proud to present Town of Mendon Historian Diane Ham's new book, *Trails Westward to Mendon –By Covered Wagon, Stagecoach, and Tavern*. Library patrons enjoyed the author's model stagecoach display!
- In response to the Boating Safety Certificate being required for all operators of watercraft with motors in 2025, Mendon Public Library partnered with New York State to offer the 8-hour Boater Safety Class on Friday, May 6. The class was given by an experienced instructor authorized by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. The classroom instruction time included preparing for and taking the required written exam. Successful participants received their Boating Safety Certificate and wallet card in the mail within the week! The class was open to anyone 10 or older.

Newman Riga Library

- Tickets are now available for the Newman Riga Library Book Tote Raffle. Along with this amazingly functional tote, patrons can also win 2 \$50 Visa Gift cards, 2 scratch-offs, and puzzle books. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held Saturday, June 18 (the winner does not need to be present.)
- The library was the drop-off point for submissions to the children's 2022 Poppy Coloring Contest from the American Legion's Harvey C Noone Post 954.



Ogden Farmers' Library

- Unfortunately, May showers brought the need to reschedule a Nature Hike to June. Indoor activities that were not rained out included Diamond Painting bookmarks, the Calling Card Club writing letters to members of the community, and the reconvening of the Teen Advisory Board.
- Free Comic Book Day saw the appearance of Taco Man. He may have participated in our month-long silent auction while in the library. Items up for bid included lunch with the Town Supervisor, Mike Zale, a guitar, a model truck, and a wide variety of gift cards to local restaurants and businesses.



Parma Public Library

- This month's Tween STEAM Club participants used a banana as a controller for their circuit activity and programmed robots to move and speak.
- A well-attended Homeschool Hour with the theme What's Up with Weather saw families doing hands-on weather experiments and making weathervanes.



Penfield Public Library

- The Penfield Public Library Board of Trustees embarked on a new strategic planning process by collecting community information in May. Library users and non-users alike were invited to participate in three different ways; via an in-person workshop in the Ruth Braman Room with light refreshments available; during a virtual workshop via Zoom; or by completing a Strategic Planning Survey either online or on paper.
- Along with a wide variety of programs in May, the library offered Practical Tips for Aging in Place, with Sue Writz, a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant. Sue discussed tips and strategies, along with general home modification suggestions that allow for a safer and more functional space to age in place.

Pittsford Community Library

- Author talks available to patrons in May included Stephanie Seneff's discussion of her book *Toxic Legacy*; Democrat & Chronicle reporter Gary Craig discussed his 2017 book, *Seven Million*; and Bill Wynne discussing *Understanding and Combating Racism*. Stephanie's book covers "How the Weedkiller Glyphosate is Destroying Our Health and the Environment." Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup. Gary discussed what it was like to see *Seven Million* converted into a documentary for Discovery, as well as the foundational tales of his books and some significant updates about ongoing stories running in the D&C. Bill Wynne reviewed his antiracism journey, described by the book's subtitle as "My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist".
- Facebook posts to generate interest in the library included staff modeling their favorite literary shirts, a call for children to share their toys in the new display cases, and a short trailer introducing the New Adult Graphic Novel section that launched May 5. https://fb.watch/dz1t9_1Q1m/



Rush Public Library

- Spring Fest was held on Saturday, May 7. It featured chalk art, lawn games, bubbles, kite-flying, a plant swap, storytime, and more.
- Chess Club welcomes adults to meet with Frances Rapport, member of the Rochester Chess Center, on Fridays from 1:30-3:00 PM in the Library Meeting Room.
- LGBTQ+ 101: Zoom program on Wednesday, May 18 offered an introduction to LGBTQ+ identity and vocabulary. Trained speakers shared their personal coming-out stories, discussed basic LGBTQ+ terminology, and helped participants to distinguish between gender identity, gender orientation, and gender expression.

Seymour Library

- Kiwanis Club of Brockport and the Friends of Seymour Library made the annual Bookmark Celebration a big success. This year's celebration welcomed our 264 elementary school entrants! Congratulations to all.



- The library opened on a Saturday evening to highlight the Local History Room, the new Mini-Museum, and participate in the community's Museum Night.
- Memorial Day themed storytime with SUNY Brockport's President Heidi Macpherson
- The library's Doll House has been refreshed with a new I Spy game

Webster Public Library

- Webster celebrated Children's Book Week by welcoming their new Children's Librarian, Hannah.
- The Spring Book Sale for the general public ran May 12-14. Customers were encouraged to bring bags for the \$5 bag sale.
- Webster announced via Facebook a lesser-known Star Wars celebration day, Talk Like Yoda Day on May 21.
- Community Family Night at Miracle Field was held outside in collaboration with Webster Parks & Recreation.
- The library tabled at the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Open House and Community Health Fair at the Jackson Road North East Quadrant Advanced Life Support EMS Base.



MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

In This Moment Chapbooks

Alicia Gunther has worked with Jeanne Strazzabosco and Tate Shaw from Visual Studies Workshop to convert the “In This Moment” chapbooks to E-books and include them in the MCLS OverDrive collection. MCLS member libraries helped to distribute 10 editions of this series in 2021. Gunther has successfully converted three chapbooks (Samra Brouk, Shawn Dunwoody, and Luticha Doucette) so far, and is continuing to work on the other seven. This series will be part of MCLS’s Local Collections on OverDrive.

Social Media

	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	419	542	296	27	0	7	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	5	1	22	-	33	28	8
Engagements	24	4	637	69	51	78	14
Check In/ Mentions	18	11	-	-	-	17	-
Post Reach	2151	1989	3274	2270	-	1609	105128
Video/Story Views	-	-	392	-	-	0	1416
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	1	-	-	3	-

Extension/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 to 25 in-home patrons; provided 1 one-on-one technology support session; and added 1 new patron this month.
- In-Home Materials Distribution:
 - Home Deliveries: 21 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)
 - Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: 3 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: 1 patron received physical library materials via USPS
- Outreach staff mailed out 3 reference packets to in-home patrons.

Station Support Visit

Amy Discenza and Maren Kyle made a station support visit to Pinnacle Place Apartments on South Clinton Avenue. Pinnacle Place, a 50-plus and/or disabled community offering affordable housing in the City of Rochester, discontinued station services in 2020 due to pandemic concerns. They are now ready to begin the process of reopening their library under the leadership of a new Resident Services Coordinator and a team of volunteers. Outreach librarians met with the team to give an overview of the program, share best practices for running a successful library station, and discuss their current reading needs. They also supplied promotional materials for Libby and Hoopla to share with residents. Pinnacle Place will resume service next month.

Outreach & Marketing/Publicity

- **Library Sampler Presentation:** Discenza spoke, via Zoom, to a group of 4 students from the April 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, and 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.
- **Book Club Support:** Outreach librarians assembled and delivered titles in a variety of formats for the book discussion group at Valley Manor Independent Living Apartments.
- **Marketing/Publicity:** For the first time in several years, the Outreach Department has a few openings in both their in-home and micro-collection lending programs. This month Outreach staff sent in-home publicity materials to MCLS libraries that don't offer an in-home program and sent out postcards advertising their micro collection lending service to 12 senior living sites via USPS.
- **Outreach Department is a 2022 Harold Hacker Fund Grant Recipient.** With funds provided through the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries, Extension/Outreach Department staff are thrilled to announce they'll be developing a library of things targeted toward adults living with cognitive decline and their care partners. The collection will include photo reminiscence cards; games and puzzles; fidget widgets and activity boards; simplified radios; and therapy dolls and pets designed to stimulate, enrich, and bring comfort to people living with Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRD). Items from the Memory Care Collection will be made available for loan to all Monroe County library cardholders at no cost through the library's holds service, thus making these items accessible to those who may not have the means to purchase them on their own and giving others a chance to "try before they buy". Stay tuned for more information.

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- The last Rochester Writes workshop for the 2021-22 season was a three-part poetry writing class taught by local poet Kitty Jospe. Jospe shared some of the feedback that she received from her students:
"I thoroughly enjoyed your lectures, and I always learned something that I've never known before. Thank you for encouraging us to try the first step, preparing these lectures with loving care, and always being kind and patient! Thank you again for such a wonderful learning experience and I hope to learn more from you."
"I hope we can do this again soon! It's nice having a writer's group that motivates each other to continue writing every day."
- Paper marbling artist Ashley Rehler instructed attendees on how to create decorative papers using a plain sheet. Marbling is a method of painting on water that allows the artists to create one-of-a-kind patterns that are transferred to paper; each design is unique. Patrons commented,
"Ashley was so knowledgeable about the process and offered us a number of extra tips and project ideas;"
"This class was beyond what I had imagined we'd learn."



Anecdotes/Other

The Art and Literature Division is now the new location for the *George Cooper Doll Collection*, which was previously housed in the Secret Room in the Children's Center. It has taken a while to find the correct lighting for this special collection, but all the cases are finally lit, showcasing this engaging collection of dolls from around the world. We have heard patrons say how glad they are to see this collection out on the public floor.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 9 in person, 41 by email, 2 by mail, and 2 by phone.

3D Printer: 1

Hours of in-depth market research: 65

Tracy Jong appointments: 1 hour, 1 individual served

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: Page Views 23; Value \$97,350

IBISWorld: Page Views 142; Value \$53,350

InnovationQ: Logins 15; Searches 274

PitchBook: Logins 13

Statista: Visits 77; Downloads 34

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Byrnes met with a group of librarians throughout the U.S. as part of the American Library Association's "Libraries Build Business" program.

Anecdotes/Other

- After connecting a patron with the Public Law Library's LexisNexis remote access program, Cobo received this email from a client:

Dear Melissa,

First, thank you very much for all the assistance that you graced me with. It was such a pleasure to see you effortlessly navigating through different windows to satisfy my inquiries. It is unfortunate that the East Ave. Law Library is by appointment only, yet it is wonderful to know that there is a hidden gem on the fourth floor of your library.

I am in great respect of your librarian skills and satisfied with your persistence. Very briefly, during my research I learned that "maybe" is of greater value than 'no.'

Sincerely,

Dwayne

- BIC is co-sponsoring the conference Cannabis, Equity, & Community Celebration taking place June 23-25. Byrnes and Meddaugh will also be speaking at the conference. The lead agency is Roc NORML, the Rochester affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. They are a cannabis consumer advocacy organization with a mission to advocate for consumers to have access to high-quality, affordable cannabis, through community education and grassroots lobbying, focusing on ensuring justice, equity, and reinvestment in the regulated cannabis space.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

Miranda Hazen welcomed ten classes from Webster schools over two weeks. The classes were originally scheduled for January, but the visit was postponed due to COVID. They were the first school group to experience the new Secret Room.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton attended meetings for ABC Head Start as part of their federal review in addition to the monthly policy council meeting.
- Burton joined the board for Friendship Children's Center and visited the site to discuss future collaborations. The Center set up visits to Central Library during the summer and requested early literacy training for staff.
- Burton attended a meeting at Nazareth College for their new RISE Scholar program. RISE (Rochester Interprofessional Scholars of Early Intervention) is a comprehensive model to prepare graduate students in the allied health programs (i.e., occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, social work, speech-language pathology, and creative arts therapies) and inclusive early education (i.e., teacher candidates). The overall purpose of the RISE specialty track is to provide introductions, specialty training, and ongoing professional learning to prepare future providers to advocate for change, work with families, and promote the overall development and well-being of young children and those children with different abilities. The student will work with Burton to expand the Talking is Teaching program and increase language activities in the Children's Center. Devann Lowe is the student who was placed with Burton, and she began on May 31.

Raising A Reader

- Margarita Chaves was able to hold two community outreach programs at the Ibero and Hart Street sites this past month. Parents completed surveys and in turn, received a RAR bag filled with bilingual books and great literacy activities. Storytimes continued but with less frequency due to some covid exposures at local sites.



MCLS offered a full day of professional development for system Children's Services staff. Thirty-three staff from twenty-one different libraries participated. The training was made possible through funding from Central Library and the Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library. We offered three sessions as well as a light breakfast and lunch. Sessions included:

- Creating Welcoming and Affirming Environments: This training was provided by Dawn Breitung from Children's Institute. As we begin getting back to "normal" it was important to offer staff support and information that would sustain them through the busy summer reading timeframe. As we all try to process and heal through continued uncertainty and change, we want to remember that the journey has been individual and personal for each one of us. The last two years have impacted how we interact with each other in different ways; this time has also reminded us how important it is for everyone to have access to welcoming and affirming spaces. In this interactive session, learners had an opportunity for self-reflection, processing in the community, and exploring trauma-informed responses to different scenarios. Participants received a brief overview of trauma, awareness of compassion satisfaction and fatigue, and explored trauma-informed practices that support the creation of welcoming and affirming environments.
- Social Media Slander Panel: This session was designed in response to situations at member libraries when staff members were harassed on social media and which crossed over into in-person harassment. This was designed to help staff understand the importance of social media, understand the difference between a personal account and a professional, and how to keep them separate and why. Local professionals who have dealt with social media slander and trolls shared their strategies for maintaining professional boundaries while effectively sharing information. This was recorded and will be shared with staff. Brief bio's of the panel members are below.
 - Rachel Barnhart (she/hers) is the Assistant Minority Leader in the County Legislature who represents the 21st District in the City of Rochester. She is serving her second term in the legislature, serving on the Ways and Means and Agenda Charter committees, as well as the Monroe County Planning Board, and the Monroe County Advisory Task Force on Broadband. Rachel spent 18 years as a broadcast journalist and now does public relations work at a nonprofit.
 - Vanessa Cheeks (she/her) is currently the Deputy Chief of Public Information at Rochester's Police Accountability Board. She formerly worked as a television producer for one of the top-rated news stations in Rochester, winning an Edward. R. Murrow award for her work in breaking news coverage.

Vanessa also spent more than seven years as a freelance reporter in the city, covering stories on homelessness and housing, mental health awareness, and social justice initiatives in our area.

- Brittan Hardgers founded Next Generation Men of Transition, a resource, advocacy, and support organization for men of the Trans experience in 2018.
 - Emily Hessney Lynch (she/her) is a social media strategist with ten years of experience; she owns [Serve Me the Sky Digital](#), where she works with nonprofits and small businesses on sharing their stories through engaging digital content. Emily serves as a trustee of the Monroe County Library System and a board member at Cameron Community Ministries. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Rochester. Emily is a short story writer, avid reader, and the proud parent of three rescue dogs.
 - Chris Thompson (he/his/him) is an engineer, writer, comedian, and activist. He is a regular contributor to the 540West Main blog and an occasional writer-at-large for the Rochester City Newspaper.
- Personal Healing with Alaina Brubaker: Licensed Therapist Alaina Brubaker offered tools for responding to traumatic events and gave ideas for ways to practice self-care. Every participant was provided with a journal to keep. Brubaker shared a list of other therapists for personal use and offered to work with member libraries to offer a similar session.

Participants from the retreat completed a survey to help assess the workshops. Some comments about the day:

It was very informative. I felt that I learned a lot that I can use every day in the library.

The most valuable thing I learned was how to replenish and nourish myself so that I can better serve my patrons. I also liked seeing that I'm not the only one feeling this way.

I would love to have this kind of workshop again with different topics, I feel it was very insightful in helping me understand my role and my responsibility of working in a library.

I appreciate the suggestions from co-workers of how to handle situations we all encounter. Thank you for this time together to learn from each other as well as from the experts.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 10

New Borrowers - 138

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 2

Notarial Acts – 108

Anecdotes/Other

Senait Gebre was helping a patron clear her fines using the Prize Drop. Gebre asked the patron her favorite thing about the library. The patron talked about how, when she was young, her family immigrated to the US, and she loved that she could come to the library and everything was free. She told Gebre that she thought it would be interesting if the library asked people what they liked about the library, filmed their answers, and displayed the answers on the screen behind the Circulation desk.

Local History & Genealogy Division, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- Genealogy Specialist Leah Green hosted the second program in the new genealogy series, *Heritage Tales: A Monthly Genealogy Program*. This month's guest speaker was Mekko Mongeon Griffin, who shared stories of her family's roots in the Clarissa Street neighborhood, which was once a hub for Black businesses in the 1940s–early 1970s. This in-person program series is held in the Local History & Genealogy Division. Attendees linger afterward to chat and explore the division's resources.
- May's installment of the *Rochester's Rich History* series featured an outdoor walking tour by Emily Morry themed "Multicultural Rochester: Immigrants, Migrants, and Minorities in the Flower City." This 1.1-mile tour focused on the significant role that immigrants, migrants, and minority group members have played in the economic, social, and cultural development of Rochester. Participants were encouraged to visit our current exhibit on immigrants, continue their learning, and explore their own ethnic and racial heritage in the Local History & Genealogy Division.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Antoine McDonald joined local scholar and library supporter Cheryl Sampson for a tour of the Rochester Academy Charter Elementary School. Sampson serves on the school's board of directors and requested that the library donate books to the school instead of an honorarium for the *Rochester's Rich History* program she presented in February. McDonald coordinated with Tonia Burton in Children's Services to curate a culturally inclusive selection of children's books to present to the school and enjoyed reading one of the books to a third-grade class during his visit.
- Christine Ridarsky and Brandon Fess represented the library at the *ConsidertheSourceNY.org Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge* Institute in Geneseo. Ridarsky serves as Finger Lakes Regional Coordinator for the project and helped to organize the institute. This event allowed regional librarians and historians to gather with educators under the aegis of the New York State Archives Partnership Trust's *ConsidertheSourceNY.org Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge* project, which has a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services to add diverse and inclusive content to [Consider The Source Online \(considerthesourceny.org\)](https://www.considerthesourceny.org). The website is designed to help educators identify primary source material for classroom use. The event allowed cultural heritage professionals and educators to discuss how they can meet each other's needs and provided an opportunity for Ridarsky and Fess to talk to educators about the wealth of primary source materials available in the library's collections.
- Dan Cody led a walking tour of the Brown's Race/High Falls area for a group of elementary home school children and their adult chaperones.
- Ridarsky made a site visit to Streeter's Inn, headquarters of the Chili Historical Society, to assess conditions for a requested loan of material from the Charles Ritz collection. Ridarsky will curate and install a small exhibit later this year of material from the collection, which was discovered packed inside a locked steamer trunk left outside St. Pius X Church just before its annual flea market in 2012. The library hosted an exhibit on Ritz and the contents of his trunk in 2014.
- Ridarsky was interviewed by WXXI producer Teej Jenkins for a *What's Good Rochester* video about plans for a state park at High Falls. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/yBPLQ9cvG-0>.
- Ridarsky met with Lisa Baron, executive board chair at Greentopia and a member the Roc the Riverway advisory board, to discuss a variety of cultural heritage initiatives, including the planned High Falls State Park, the National Susan B. Anthony Museum's planned interpretive center, and efforts to protect the Rochester Historical Society's collections.
- Ridarsky attended her final meeting as the MCLS representative on the Monroe County Legislature's Airport Renaming Advisory Committee. Anna Souannavong, Director of the Gates Public Library, will replace her on

the committee. Ridarsky had served as co-chair of the Education Subcommittee, which was tasked with developing the interpretive framework and plan for an exhibit in the airport's observation deck.

Special Collections

- Fess continued processing the Mortimer F. Delano papers element of the Montgomery & Angell Family Papers and continued in-house conservation work on damaged and/or fragile items from the map collection. He and Jordan Wallance are also working to finish sorting and arranging items in the concert program collection, a project begun earlier this spring by intern Zachary Vila (SUNY Geneseo).
- Accessions and finding aid work remained on pause while the Library Automation Services team continued upgrading the ArchivesSpace software.

Digital Projects

- Fess continued to work with Ryan Hughes of the Rochester Regional Library Council to upload collections from *Rochester Images* to the *New York Heritage* website. View the collections at <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/rochester-public-library>.
- *Rochester Voices*
Jordyn Bagley, a new intern from Nazareth College, began developing additional content for the Latino Oral Histories collection on *Rochester Voices* this month (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/latino-oral-histories/>). Bagley is summarizing and uploading the latest batch of interviews collected by Nazareth students. She expects to add at least 14 interviews to the collection by the end of the summer.

Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 51 views in May: "Welcome Home: A New Exhibit in Local History!" by Emily Morry, and "Deeply Rooted: Rochester's Ukrainian Community, Part Two" by Christopher Brennan. In addition to these posts, readers from 24 countries revisited 136 previously published posts for a total of 1,730 views. The most popular posts were "Everyday People: A New Exhibit in Local History!" (94 views) and "'A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore 'Sammy G' Giggello" (93 views), followed closely by "Kool Things: The History of the J. Hungerford Smith Company" (89 views). All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- RMC held two movie programs: See It First Saturday showing "Cyrano" and First Friday Films showing "Uncharted."
- RMC also held two Brown Bag Book Discussions: one in person and one via Zoom. The book discussed was *Premonition* by Michael Lewis.

Database Use

Hoopla

- Circulation
 - Total Circulation – 1957
- Users
 - New users – 52
 - Total users – 505

- Cost
 - Total \$3,256.32
 - Per item – \$1.67

Anecdotes/Other

- Diane Premo had an AudioFile Review published:
<https://www.audiofilemagazine.com/reviews/read/215080/portrait-of-an-unknown-lady-by-maria-gainza-thomas-bunstead-trans-read-by-kyla-garc%C3%ADa/>
- On Ref Chat, a patron was asking about getting a library card for her child who was just a year old. I told her she could get one for him at any age. She was so excited because she wanted to introduce him to books and reading as soon as possible. I told her to bring him in and meet the Children's Center Staff at any time, and she should also take him to other libraries in the county because each one was different. It was a nice interaction; you could almost hear her enthusiasm through the computer!

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Healthy Living Series – presented by Sparkle Wells, Health Project Coordinator from Center for Community Health and Prevention, University of Rochester Medical Center. This is the first of an eight-part series. This is the same group that provides the monthly *Got Health?* video programs that we promote through social media. The presenter is enthusiastic and committed.
- Gardening Basics: Growing Strawberries in the Home Garden was presented by Jarmila Haseler, Agricultural Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. These Zoom programs have continued to be popular and well-attended.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Gabe Pellegrino attended the Community-Driven Cancer Research Team Meeting, part of the Wilmot Cancer Community Action Council (CCAC). Goals for team projects were discussed, with forms to be filled out. The library will assist with producing videos to promote the Clinical Trials for underserved populations. Because of duplicative efforts, we may be teaming up with additional groups attempting the same projects.

Anecdotes/Other

- Many adult patrons who have come into the Science, History and Social Sciences Division remark how great it is for them to take the seasonal coloring sheets made available in the division. There has been one gentleman who comes in almost daily, takes a coloring sheet, asks to use the colored pencils the staff has available, sits down, and colors the sheet.
- The month of May has provided many challenges for Science Division staff, with one member on leave. The staff has shown excellent teamwork, with part-time staff working additional hours, frequent schedule changes and adaptations, training of substitute librarians, and assuming various additional duties and book orders to meet fiscal year deadlines.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Daily computer usage remained steady in May. With the pressure and frenzy of the tax season in the past, the staff is now able to take a little more time with patrons needing extensive help with resumes, job applications,

and social services paperwork. The slightly relaxed pace lets staff be more thorough with patron projects and gives our users a better experience.

Programs

- Judith Schewe's weekly Tech Talk is providing a forum for patrons needing in-depth training on various applications. Much of her time this past month was spent teaching patrons various apps in the suite of Google's office products. She has also introduced patrons to the impressive array of databases available on Central's website.
- Pedro Nunez's weekly Device Advice has allowed patrons to schedule an hour or longer problem-solving session. Nunez's weekend Tabletop Role-Playing Gaming program continues to draw consistent attendance.

Anecdotes/Other

Early in May, a young man asked for help filling out an application for a small business loan. He wanted to start a restaurant after having managed a successful food truck business. Jeanne Slocomb helped him navigate his bank's website. He worked doggedly through the application and entered all the required information. Slocomb was careful to not offer advice, but her presence and support helped the applicant stay focused on the task. Slocomb is an excellent cheerleader for people facing a daunting project and she stuck with the patron and encouraged him to persevere through to the completion of his goal. Several weeks later the same patron reappeared in the Technology Center looking for Jeanne. He seemed to have made a trip to the library specifically to thank Jeanne for helping him stay with his project. He shared with the staff that he had received a \$100,000 loan from a local bank. He told the Technology Center staff that without the assistance and support he received at the library, he would not have gotten through the process and would never have been approved for the loan.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Learn to Code: 4 sessions were offered in May. A few new learners joined our Library Coding Program via Google Drive. We will be adding three new coding tutorials 1) Code Your First Website: Learn basic HTML and Publish It Too! 2) Basic GitHub Tutorial and 3) How to Create a Mobile App for your WordPress Website.
- Craft 'n' Chat: Monday's craft program had a few regular participants who learned how to use a sewing machine and basic hand stitching. Others kept busy making bracelets while socializing.
- Video/Photo Production – 3rd grader Queen and her brother, 5th grader Nazir, won 1st place in the Digies Media Festival for their Secret Room Virtual Tour. [Secret Room Virtual Tour.mp4](#)
- Glowforge- This month focused on wristband creation. The first bag of 24 was used in the first week of May. We now have a wristband poster on our wall. This month we also created our first belt in the Glowforge.





- Esports - Recruitment for our Esports team has started. We are looking to have teens play in open summer tournaments prior to starting the official team in September. Here is one of our hopefuls winning a Fortnite match earlier this month. We met with staff from City Recreation in the hopes of having participation at the R-centers also.



- Digital Art – Patty Uttaro has supplied one of our young artists with markers to use on the glass panels in the Link area. He will begin soon. Below is one of his drawings that will be up on the ceiling in ImagineYou.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Fae Jahanshiri attended the Code4Lib Conference. She enjoyed this truly inclusive conference and learned a great deal about many new topics related to coding/technology/software for libraries and librarians and connected with a few like-minded colleagues from the Finger Lakes Library System and the Genesee District Library. They would like to collaborate on promoting our coding programs such as the Learn to Code and Girls Who Code Club programs. All talks and poster sessions can be accessed and downloaded here: <https://osf.io/meetings/c4l22>
- Jahanshiri also attended the Girls Who Code Club Facilitator
- Shetora Banks attended the webinar: Decentralized Apps, the Metaverse, and “The Next Big Thing” with Jin and Wendy Hanamura hosted by The Metropolitan New York Library Council.
- Banks met with the B+ Healthy Food Market to discuss a nutritional program for the teens that would include an entrepreneurial component.

