



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: August 15, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – August 2022

Action Items

None

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

MCLS Logo – The current MCLS logo was developed more than 20 years ago and features the aqueduct bridge. I would like to open a discussion with the board about undergoing a logo refresh. The system has changed over the last 2 decades, and given the plans for the Broad Street bridge, the aqueduct image may become irrelevant in a couple of years if the arches are removed. If the board agrees it's time to refresh the logo, we'll look for some funding opportunities to hire a marketing firm.

Active Killer Training & Site Assessments – Associate Director Smathers has worked with representatives from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to develop a series of training on Active Killer situations and to offer on-site assessments of library buildings in Monroe County. Many thanks are due to BJ Scanlon for facilitating the connection between MCLS and MCSO. This has been a good experience for Smathers as she begins to learn more about the relationships between MCLS and County departments. The training will be offered at various locations in the Fall.

Naloxone Boxes – Monroe County also offered to install Naloxone boxes in three City libraries in July, and the County Executive held a press conference at the Sully Branch to announce the program. The boxes have been installed at Sully, Arnett, and Central Library, and the County has offered to install more boxes at other libraries in the MCLS in the coming months. Associate Director Smathers is currently polling the member libraries to determine which libraries would like to have the boxes installed.

MCLS Policy Review – Over the next few months, MCLS policies will be reviewed and revised as necessary. Policies will be shared for review at one meeting, feedback collected, then revisions presented for action at future meetings. The first set of policies being reviewed relates to patron confidentiality and privacy. There are currently three separate policies: Retention of Electronic Records, Confidentiality of Library Records, and a Privacy Policy for the website. I would like to discuss with the board if these three policies should be merged into a single patron privacy policy.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Brighton Memorial Library

Three Students were selected as this year's Library Interns. Ryan Blair (Technical Processing) and Kiesha Ivey (Circulation) will fulfill their 120-hour practicum hours with Circulation, Programming, and Young Adult Services Manager, Deena Viviani, in Young Adult Services. The third student, Stephanie Knapp, will work with Children's Librarian, Elissa Schaeffer, in Children's Services.

Chili Public Library

- The library and several sharks participated in the Chil-E Fest Parade with the float "Oceans of Possibilities: The Summer Reading Program."
- July saw the return of the library's Truck Show. Free popsicles and books delighted those visiting the school buses, fire trucks, and construction equipment.



East Rochester Public Library

- The Kinetic Sand Castle competition was won by Alec G. Alec got 33 votes and earned a free pass to the George Eastman House with his castle creation. All of the castles from those with not-so-hidden treasure to straw drawbridges can be seen on the library's [June 29th Facebook post](#).
- The fun kept going when InJest visited the library and juggled assorted items, including toilet plungers and beanbag chairs. Life lessons were shared with the audience, such as "follow your dreams" and "chainsaws are dangerous." Mackenzie Parrotta commented, "He was so funny! I had tears from laughing!"



Fairport Public Library

- Outdoor storytimes at Perinton Park, the Gazebo, and Farmer's market have been all the rage this summer.
- Even though the library had to close for a maintenance issue, the Princess Gazebo Storytime with an ASL interpreter attracted a large smiling crowd.
- At the Farmer's Market Storytime, if the parking lot wasn't already blocked off, traffic would have had to be rerouted due to the crowd of people there to see Miss Lauren.

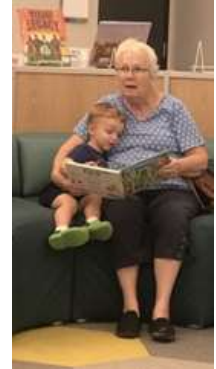


Gates Public Library

The room for the Library's annual t-shirt painting program was filled with talented artists. A fun time was had by all. Phinneas The Shark, the official library mascot has been very active on Twitter with posts on Shark Awareness (he is one) and his Shark Week activities. Phinneas even made a guest appearance at the Webster Public Library's summer reading kickoff.

Greece Public Library

The story garden has been used for reading by multiple generations, including a lovely lady reading to her great-grandson. In other generational news, a patron commented that her kids love Outdoor Tween Yoga and thanked the instructor Karen for giving them strategies for having a bit of calm in their crazy days. Not to be left out, the younger crowd for baby art tried finger painting and rainbow spaghetti techniques



Hamlin Public Library

Summer reading fun was bubbling over at the library. Artists using bubble painting techniques, big-bubble makers, and other enthusiasts took full advantage of a lovely day to explore the oceans of possibilities found within bubbles.

Henrietta Public Library

The 3rd-anniversary party for the new library building was a big hit. It featured Elephant, Piggy, and TR the library's T-Rex mascot. An ice cream truck was on hand to keep things chill while demonstrations, storytimes, and art shows went on all day. It's hard to believe how much fun programming has happened at the new library building in just three years. Check out the 3rd-anniversary video: <https://youtu.be/yffStxsaFBQ>



Irondequoit Public Library

The library's 75th anniversary was celebrated with the Irondequoit Town Historian via a hybrid in-person/live streaming event. Reminiscing started early on the library's Facebook page. Judy Klem noted, "The first library I remember was in the basement of the bank on the corner of Titus and Cooper." Learn more about the library's history at irondequoitlibrary.org/about-the-library and from the recording of the anniversary event: <https://fb.watch/elfvUFoWol/>.

Mendon Public Library

The Book Bike and a super crew of MPL supporters made their way through the Mendon Carnival Parade, dispersing hundreds of books and a lot of good cheer. Thank you to the volunteers, parade and carnival organizers, and spectators for contributing to such an exciting event. Among the many varied activities for summer reading in June and July, talented crafty library volunteers assembled over a thousand Take and Make Kits. All the kits have 44p,



Newman Riga Library

In June the library held its annual book sale and raffle tote. The tote was won by Elizabeth Taitano. July saw programming by Cathy McGrath of Teakettle music. Cathy described her experience performing at Mendon, "That was FUN! Lots of cooperation, creative movement, and

giggling while we played together! The limberjack puppets had a really fun time, too! Keep singing! Keep reading!”

Ogden Farmers' Library

The library was on the move in June and July. With Wednesday storytimes at Springdale Farm and a booth at Spencerport Canal Days library staff and patrons have been getting some sun. Senator Rob Ortt was a special leader for an interactive Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Storytime.



Parma Public Library

- Through July, the library collected donations of any school supplies for all ages: folders, crayons, glue sticks, binders, etc., and backpacks to benefit our local community and SPIRIT NYS. School Supplies will be distributed for free during our "Shop and Swap" on August 13th and teen-sized backpacks will be given to SPIRIT NYS, which "serves students who are enrolled in high school without parental support."
- Assemblyman Josh Jensen read and sang during Wednesday storytime. During his visit, the Assemblyman said, "Thank you to the [Parma Public Library](#) and Ms. Zuzu for inviting me to be today's special guest reader at story time this morning. *There Are No Bears in This Bakery* was a big hit for everyone, including me, and I had a great time joining in on a round of patty-cake!"



Penfield Public Library

Summer Reading at Penfield was so exciting, even the fish were talking about it. Video here: <https://fb.watch/eIZ09ioek7/>. In June a luncheon was held to thank all our volunteers for the work you do for our community's library! Thank you to the Friends of PPL and staff members who arranged the luncheon and decorated it, to the facilities staff who set up and took down tables, chairs, and more, and to the PPL trustees, Foundation members, and friends who came to celebrate with us.



Pittsford Community Library

- Emily Hessney Lynch, MCLS trustee, writer, and owner of Serve Me the Sky Digital, sat down with Your Friendly Neighborhood Librarians to talk about social media and what it's like to be a member of the MCLS Board of Trustees, and—of course—books! Find this episode (and all of our past episodes) at <https://anchor.fm/pittsfordlibrary>.
- Patrons browsed and checked out ocean-themed books from the MCLS Books by Bike, played games to win prizes, and learned about all the fun Oceans of Possibilities Summer Reading events happening at PCL. No worries if you missed it because we'll be back down across the canal several more times in August.



Scottsville Free Library

A patron said of the rescheduled Make Rainbow Fish Cupcakes Storybook Cook, “This was the first event we’ve ever attended, and it was a lot of fun! So many goodies and such a cute book to go along. We look forward to future events!”

Seymour Library

Libraries use a mix of science and art in creating a community institution. Seymour librarians noticed some holes in our collection of missing or outdated books on camping/outdoors for young adults. Books were purchased to fill the holes and summer programs were scheduled to gauge interest in those topics. Folks have borrowed the books. Participation in the kinetic learning Survival Camp program shows a need in our Seymour community. We love to see these outcomes because they illustrate the rewards of an engaged library serving its community.



Webster Public Library

The library is excited to announce that they will no longer be charging any late fees on ALL Webster Library youth materials! <https://fb.watch/eJ197ic0Yp/>

There may be no sharks in Lake Ontario, but there were plenty of sharks at the library for Shark Week and Shark Awareness Day. From movies to books and crafts, there was something sharky for everyone to sink their teeth into.

MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

MCLS Management Letter to the County

Jennifer Smathers and Brie Harrison worked on a revision of the annual MCLS management letter which is submitted to the County annually with the budget. This letter provides details on the 2023 budget request as well as information on accomplishments from the prior year. New objectives for 2023, drawn from the MCLS

Plan of Service, are included along with selected performance indicators. A copy of the letter is shared with this report.

MCLS Trustee Orientation at Chili – Smathers and Uttaro provided an orientation for a new trustee at the Chili Library on July 7. This was Smathers' first time doing an orientation. Chili Library Director Jeff Baker joined Smathers and Uttaro as they shared information about the role and responsibilities of library trustees in New York State. Smathers will take on the delivery of these orientations and other trustee training opportunities within the system.

OverDrive

- Alicia Gunther continued to check hold lists and title recommendations received by the system. 384 titles were added to the shared collection, and 1,466 Cost Per Circ units were purchased based on patron requests, waiting lists for titles, and upcoming expiring titles in the system's Overdrive collection. Gunther continued to focus efforts on the management of holds to reduce the wait time on titles in the shared collection.
- On June 22 Gunther met with Kristin Press and Claire Weible from OverDrive to run and review an annual Diversity Audit for the MCLS OverDrive collection. Since this is the system's second Diversity audit, we were able to compare the 2021 audit to our 2022 audit. This report looks at the diversity of the collection based on Audience (Adult, YA, and Children) Fiction/ / Nonfiction, and a wide range of diversity-related subjects. Based on the comparison of the two audits we improved/increased the diversity of our collections in all categories.

Local Collections

Throughout the month, Gunther continued to work on converting the "In This Moment" chapbooks to e-books and including them in the MCLS OverDrive collection. The chapbook for Debora McDell-Hernandez was uploaded to Overdrive in early July. Local Collection materials were checked out 25 times in June & July.

Outreach Events

On July 16 Alicia Gunther and 25 staff from MCLS member libraries partnered with the OWWL Libraries (Pioneer Library System) to attend the Rochester Pride Parade and Pride Festival. Members walked in the parade handing out library branded materials, and paper fans, and engaged with the parade viewers. During the festival, four children's librarians presented a story time and library staff helped patrons to make Pride-themed buttons, including pronouns. Staff also handed out library-related materials and shared information about the Evelyn Bailey fund for FFRPL. Overall, the day went very well with staff being able to engage with hundreds of people from the community. While the library system has participated in the Pride Parade in past years, this was the first year that MCLS participated in the festival, and we hope to expand our presence at the festival in the future with more family-focused library activities.

Programs

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends & Foundation of the RPL, our new subscription to the Library Speakers Consortium Author Talks was set up in June, with the first online author talks beginning in July. There will be two to three virtual Author Talks per month. With a variety of fiction and non-fiction authors, these live talks will inspire and allow patrons to ask questions and learn the story behind the story. Participation is easy via this website - <https://libraryc.org/roccitylibrary> - where patrons can scroll down to see the list of upcoming talks and a link to register for each of them. Once registered, patrons will be sent an email with the link to join the live event. They will also later receive an email with a link to the recording for use if they weren't able to attend the live event. The library will keep an archive of most of the recorded events that can be accessed at any time. The first talk, with author Alka Joshi (The Henna Artist), had 14 attendees of the live event and 28 views of the

recording in the seven days after the live event. The second talk, with David Allen (Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity), had 10 live attendees and 27 views of the recording in the seven days after the live event.

Catalog, Equity & Inclusivity (CEI) Project

In June, Jennifer Lenio assembled a team of catalogers and staff to identify outdated subject headings currently used in the MCLS catalog. The team is examining subject headings used to classify materials about groups of people and subjects which have changed over the years. The use of antiquated subject headings affects the success of searching in the catalog and makes it harder for patrons to find what they need.

Catalogers Dee Mrak and Margaret Paige contacted the Los Angeles Public Library, which is another TLC/CARL library. They got some good information from the head of cataloging there on how they tackled their project on changing the outdated subject headings in their catalog. Mrak suggested that we use our current vendor for authority control, Backstage Library Works, to automate the overlay in name authorities and subject headings to ensure the integrity of the catalog.

Social Media

June & July 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	1719	1819	870	97	3	163	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	18	9	71	-	48	73	13
Engagements	107	121	3341	100	299	905	69
Check-In/ Mentions	35	56	-	-	-	28	-
Post Reach	6299	6950	32812	2484	-	5979	48535
Video/Story Views	-	-	359	-	-	229	1469
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	12	-	-	31	-

Extension/Outreach Department -Amy Discenza reporting

Statistics

- Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 22 library stations and fulfilled special requests for 18 stations.
- Outreach staff selected and delivered library materials to 41 in-home patrons and added 2 new patrons
- Outreach staff mailed out 6 reference packets to in-home patrons.
- Outreach staff fulfilled 15 requests for “Making Moves” reentry resource packets from incarcerated individuals, Transitional Coordinators, parolees, and ex-offenders; the “Making Moves” webpage received 130 pageviews.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Corrections Support: Library Assistant, Wes Becker, added a presentation put together by the Legal Action Center titled “Know Your Rights: Marijuana Legalization & What it Means for New Yorkers” to “Making Moves,” the department’s reentry resource packet (and website).
- Amy Discenza spoke, via Zoom, to a group of 11 students from the June and July cohorts 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.
- Discenza and Maren Kyle spoke to a group of 9 older adults at Wolk Café on July 13. Lifespan’s Wolk Café is a community gathering space that provides daily programming as well as breakfast and lunch for people ages 60+ in downtown Rochester. Included in the presentation was an overview of the services of the Outreach Department, health and human service-related programs offered through the Central Library, as well as other library services and events that promote lifelong learning and fun. Highlights include online resources and the Author Talks series. Discenza and Kyle provided promotional literature to accompany the talk. The audience members were lively participants in the discussion and asked many questions, including a question about large print sheet music that the Outreach staff followed up on, providing reference information after the presentation. The group showed a particular interest in Local History and Genealogy, so contact was facilitated between the Café’s program coordinator and Michelle Finn, Deputy Historian, and a local history program is upcoming.
- Outreach staff continued to promote the department’s in-home delivery program by distributing 200 flyers to individuals enrolled in the Monroe County Meals on Wheels program. With the assistance of Corinne Clar from Graphics and Mary Royce from LAS, the Outreach Department’s application for in-home library service has been redesigned and added to the department’s web pages on the MCLS and RPL Websites. Applying for in-home service has never been easier: apply online, download/print an application, or call and request an application through the mail.
- Discenza made a technology support visit to a Brighton Public Library patron who is experiencing vision loss. Discenza worked with the individual, who is particularly interested in films and television shows, to install Hoopla on his cell phone. She also taught him how to operate the talking book player he was issued by the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library and helped him explore accessibility features, such as VoiceOver on his smartphone.
- Amy Discenza and Maren Kyle visited Ahepa 67 Senior Apartments in Webster to promote the department’s micro collection lending service.

Anecdotes/Other

- Program feedback from the Episcopal SeniorLife Communities at Brentland Woods (Henrietta):
“Your Library Station Program has been so important to the residents here. With mobility often a concern for our residents, the Library Station Program still gives the residents access to the library steps from their home. Many residents need and use the large print books and without these, they would not be able to read. They look forward to new selections every other month and often talk with each other about book recommendations. You will always see residents in common areas quietly reading. It is a pastime they love and it wouldn’t be possible with this program.” – Stephanie Wells, Executive Director

- Outreach staff worked with Graphics to finalize flyers promoting “Making Moves” reentry resources packets and online resources. In recent years, the department has seen a drop in written requests from incarcerated individuals; by promoting this resource with NYS DOCCS librarians, we hope to reach a greater audience.

Spotlight on Making Moves

Since Wes Becker joined the Outreach team last year, he has done an incredible job editing, updating, and seeking community input on “Making Moves,” the department’s reference guide to reentry resources for criminal justice involved persons and others in transition in the Rochester area.

In June, a submission on the “Making Moves” website led to an email correspondence between Wes and a community partner who was once involved in the justice system. Here’s an excerpt:

“I am formerly incarcerated, and while on the inside utilized Making Moves to make plans for my release. Now that I am out in the real world and am enjoying a degree of success, I am seeking ways to help others be successful as they transition back into society.”

It's nice to hear from someone who benefited from this resource and is thriving.

Spotlight on Reentry Resources Event

In partnership with the Science, History & Social Sciences Division, Becker led a well-attended public presentation titled “Reentry Resources for Justice-Involved Persons”. Becker highlighted resources available to help reduce common barriers faced by persons coming out of jail and prison. The event was marketed toward individuals who are experiencing the collateral consequences of past incarceration and to those who might have a family member/friend in jail or prison.

Participants learned about local free legal resources, educational and training opportunities, and a unique employer hiring incentive for persons with barriers to employment. The discussion also focused on important practical steps one can take during and/or after incarceration to help ensure a more successful return to the community: establishing evidence of rehabilitation; creating a personal statement; and getting, understanding, and correcting errors in one’s RAP sheet (Record of Arrest and Prosecution).

The event was attended by 14 people, including several formerly incarcerated persons, a family member with an incarcerated loved one, a local social worker, a local hairdresser who sees many formerly incarcerated clients, the D&C’s local justice reporter (who saw the presentation advertised on Twitter), as well as representatives from LAWNY and the Judicial Process Commission. Becker incorporated the expertise of these latter two service providers into the presentation to answer some questions from the audience and has begun a discussion with JPC and LAWNY to formally partner in similar presentations (library or elsewhere in the community) in the future.

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Patron Services, Cynthia Dana Reporting

Programs

The first play date for Summer of Play was held on the South Terrace. Cynthia Dana, Lynette Alley, Jonathan Hammond, and Margaret Paige interacted with many patrons while blowing bubbles, hula hooping, and playing ladder ball. There were also several creative chalk drawings by staff and patrons. A group of University of Rochester students on a bike ride stopped to try their hand at bubbles, picked up books, and went inside the library while staff watched their bikes. It was their first time inside. A father came by with his two sons and said they only had a few minutes. The boys wanted to try everything, and they ended up staying for quite a while. Many folks stopped by just to ask questions about the library services; the staff was prepared with brochures and calendars.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Cynthia Dana was contacted by Don Armstrong, Cancer Support Community (formerly Gilda's Club) who was interested in doing a table at the Central Library to inform the community of the services they offer both patients and their caregivers. It was decided that the schedule will be two Mondays per month. The first visit was very successful. The Monroe County Department of Health will also table on the same day, giving each other more opportunities to draw patrons to their tables.
- Dana, along with Bob Scheffel, hosted a group of veterans for a tour of both buildings. There was a lot of interest in the programs we offer and the services we provide; everyone picked up an August program calendar. Dana provided further information that was requested via email. One gentleman stayed to enjoy the concert in the garden. They were very pleased to know about the Foodlink Café as well, and the many community partners we have.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Create Fabulous Florals in Pastel--Pastel is a medium many do not feel comfortable working with, but local artist Sara Blake alleviated the fear of this diverse art medium by showing students the effects that can be achieved by pastels depending on how they are held. She showed students how to get effects by working vertically, using the tip like a pencil and how to use hard and soft pastels. Students also learned blending and layering and mixing techniques. Patrons worked with their pastels and created a lovely floral drawing of sunflowers.
- The monthly writer's support group, "Words in Progress," facilitated by author Jennifer Case, had its last meeting before taking a summer break. Many "Words in Progress" participants have been members of this group for years; a strong bond has formed among these writers, who encourage and educate each other. Here are some of their comments:

"I am so grateful for the Zoom opportunity b/c of my disability. This writing program has carried me through some of the hardest and most painful days of my life. The nature of my disability happened because of school violence. This program helped me to find my voice again. I have been a participant for at least five years. I am so grateful."

"I LOVE the Words in Progress class. Being able to take part in this class allows me to be in contact with other writers, learn different writing techniques, explore different genres of writing, gives me story ideas (through writing prompts) and it keeps me writing. I do hope the library will continue to offer this class and other writing classes, including playwrighting classes."

- Librarian Nanci Nugent is a doll maker and has taught several classes at Central making dolls. These dolls were a take-and-make kit put together by Nugent. She gave instructions on how to make these vibrant little folk dolls and cut the numerous pieces of felt, ribbon, and cloth for students. Patrons were given cloth and felt to make sleeping bags for these little ones and a tent for them to go camping. Patrons loved it!

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

June & July

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 14 in person, 2 by Zoom, 59 by email, 0 by mail, and 13 by phone.

Webpage views: 146

3D Printer: 4

Hours of in-depth market/IP research: 120

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 15

Tracy Jong appointments: 10.5 hours, 16 individuals served



Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: 39 Page Views; Value \$92,900
IBISWorld: 195 Page Views; Value \$74,595
InnovationQ: 18 Logins; 238 Searches
PitchBook: 38 Logins
Statista: 177 Visits; 56 Downloads

Programs

Jennifer Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh taught at the Rochester chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law (ROC NRML). It was a seminar bringing industry experts and policymakers across the state together to discuss brand development and intellectual property surrounding cannabis. After speaking at the ROC NRML cannabis conference, an attendee said to Byrnes *“You know more than my lawyer, and I paid him \$15K.”*

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Librarian Katie Powell and Literacy Aide Taylor Coonelly resumed toddler storytime sessions at Highland Park for the summer. Sessions focus primarily on songs, rhymes, and movement to encourage parents to Talk, Read, and Sing with their children every day. Library staff offers practical tips to prompt parents to extend learning at home.
- Coonelly is hosting a weekly Let’s Play in the Secret Room every Thursday morning. Each week a new play theme is chosen, focusing on social-emotional learning and hands-on play. One of the favorites was a play time inspired by the Rochester Public Market.
- Bubble Mania kicked off the summer reading program series. Visiting Artist Doug Rougeux delighted the crowd with all the different bubble creations from the caterpillar to the ice cream cone.
- Summer Camp groups have visited the Children’s Center through July. We have had visits from Friendship Children’s Center, VOA Childcare, TLC Adventures in Learning, Sharing & Caring, and Horizons Warner. Children’s Center staff created a different program for each scheduled group visit, this was in addition to the regular public programming.
- For the Horizons visit, children learned about the library, read stories, learned about Ocean garbage, made jellyfish using items that are often found in the ocean, had lunch, and watched a movie. The older students were able to play video games, explore music, and learn about the imagineYOU lab. One young student told us that he had so much fun he wanted to have his birthday party here.



- It's been several years since we have been able to welcome groups, it feels great to get back to normal!



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Burton facilitated meetings for the Talking is Teaching work group, Kinder Camp planning team, and an Americorps VISTA Urban Fellow with Cornell Cooperative Extension who will offer free Art in Nature programs this summer at Central. She also participated in a meeting with Healthi Kids, local author Leslie Youngblood, Rochester Children's Book Festival directors, and Council member Willie Lightfoot. Lightfoot is interested in helping relaunch the Storytime with Style program. He will work with Burton to train salon and barbershop staff on the importance of reading with children and how they can utilize Talking is Teaching materials and build relations with the Rochester Public Library.
- Burton attended the Rochester City School District Pre-K registration event at Freddie Thomas School. Families came to sign their children up for the Pre-K program offerings and learn about community resources. It was a great place to reconnect with other community partners and reignite partnerships. As a result, we have been invited to Clifford Avenue and Jefferson Avenue Head Start sites for regular visits.
- Children's Center staff put together bags for ABC Head Start and School #10 End of Year events. The bags contained Talking is Teaching information, stickers, a book, and the RPL summer reading program guide. Burton, Coonelly, and Margarita Chaves from Central; along with Nancy Cholewa and Bruce Tehan from Arnett teamed up to be sure all requests were met.
- Burton and Powell attend the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington D.C. Some of the workshop ideas they hope to utilize include outreach and bookmobile services, sensory services, amplifying youth voices, 1000 Black Girls book club, sharing early literacy with families in the NICU, nature challenges, and supporting new parents.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

June & July

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 12

New Borrowers - 332

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 7

Notarial Acts – 268

Anecdotes/Other

- A woman in Rome, Italy recently applied for an Out of County card. She sent the following e-mail:
"I can't begin to express how grateful I am for this. My local library doesn't have an eBook lending system, so I was resigned to having very limited options - until I discovered that your library offers a non-resident card!! I have an enormous catalog at my disposal now, an endless wish list to work my way through, without fearing for my bills. Do you realize how great the opportunity you provide is? I feel not enough people know about this (at least in my country) and I will do my best to let everyone know. Thank you endlessly from a happy happy reader. Have a great day, please know how important your work is in this troubled world."
- Staff from the Naples Library brought a group of teens to see the Central Library and the Art of the Book exhibit. The group explored both buildings and stopped at the Booksale by the Circulation Desk. The supervisor told Cunningham that the teens were very impressed with the library. After they left to explore the second floor, Cunningham had a conversation with another patron who mentioned that she was born and raised in Naples. Cunningham told her about the teen group, and she went to find them and introduce herself.
- Jim Montione was working at the Information Desk when he got what might be the greatest reference question ever: a patron called and asked if Montione could name some famous pigs. Montione looked online and found a list of famous pigs. Alas, there was one glaring omission: what kind of list of famous pigs doesn't include Arnold Ziffel from Green Acres?

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

The Local History & Genealogy Division lost two long-time partners and supporters this summer. Evelyn Bailey, a historian and archivist for the Out Alliance, and founder of Shoulders to Stand On passed away on July 13 from pancreatic cancer. Ridarsky submitted a separate report on the status of the transfer of the Shoulders to Stand On program to the library and the Shoulders to Stand On endowed fund that Bailey established at the Friends & Foundation.

Robert Becker died July 17 after a long battle with esophageal cancer. Becker's generous donations funded the Walter F. Becker Digital History Center, named for his father. Bob Becker was an avid genealogist, who wrote several family histories and always touted our division's resources. He was the 2014 recipient of the FFRPL's 2014 Harold Hacker Library Lifetime Achievement Award.

With the elimination of fees for services effective July 1, the Local History & Genealogy Division has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of requests for Life Records (21), Newspaper Index orders (15), and Rochester Images orders (16), compared to the number of requests received in July 2021 (Life Records: 6; Newspaper Index orders: 5; Rochester Images order: 2). It is too soon to tell whether this increase reflects a previous demand that was stifled by the fees or a temporary rush that will ease over time. The division will continue to monitor and report on patron demand for these services.

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- In June, Genealogy Specialist Leah Green hosted the third program in the new genealogy series, Heritage Tales: A Monthly Genealogy Program. The guest speaker was Gerald Bunton, who shared his expertise in tracing African American genealogy and tips for searching for ancestors who were enslaved. This was the final installment of the Spring 2022 program series, which was held in person in the Local History &

Genealogy Division, allowing attendees to linger afterward and explore the division's resources. The series will resume in September 2022.

- Three June Dialogues in Depth programs explored Rochester's response to the AIDS epidemic: a tour of the AIDS Remembrance Garden in Highland Park, a talk on Inequities in AIDS Research and Health Care, and a talk on Addressing AIDS' Outsized Effect on Marginalized Communities. The AIDS Remembrance Garden tour was featured in the June 3 NBN6 e-newsletter from Neighbors Building Neighborhoods: <https://nbn6.files.wordpress.com/2022/06/news-6-3-22.pdf>.
- The June installment of Rochester's Rich History series featured a presentation by dann j. broyld entitled "Borderland Blacks: Two Cities in the American-Canadian Niagara Region During the Final Decades of Slavery," exploring the transnational identities of Black inhabitants of the towns of Rochester, New York, and St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Based on broyld's recently published book on this topic, the talk was followed by a meet-and-greet and book signing with the author.
- Finn presented "From Flour to Flower: How Rochester Got Its Nicknames" to a group of second graders that visited the division from Derech HaTorah of Rochester school (K-8).

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Michelle Finn joined Patty Uttaro for an interview with Brian Sharp (WXXI) about the newly reopened Rundel North Terrace and the exciting programs and educational experiences planned for it.
- Dan Cody led a walking tour of the Downtown Heritage Trail for the City of Rochester's "Flower City Feeling Good" summer series.
- Christine Ridarsky gave presentations on the history of the Swillburg neighborhood to two groups of Allendale Columbia School middle school students at Otto Henderberg Park.
- Ridarsky and Brandon Fess met with Kate Philipson from Documentary Heritage Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) to begin the Archival Needs assessment for Local History & Genealogy. project, expected to extend across the summer and fall of 2022, will allow Local History & Genealogy to identify weaknesses in its archival program and develop solutions to them. Fess completed a pre-assessment document for Philipson that will be used in the formal needs assessment later in the summer.
- Ridarsky and Finn met with a team from Second Avenue Learning, an interactive media company that specializes in educational gaming, to discuss ideas for developing Augmented Reality (AR) experience(s) on the newly renovated North Terrace of the Rundel Memorial Building. Ridarsky subsequently submitted an application to Humanities New York for a \$1,500 Vision Grant to support the development of technical specifications that will allow the development of the AR experience(s) to move forward. A decision on funding is expected in September.



Second graders from Derech HaTorah learn how Rochester became The Flour/Flower City. Photo by Christine Ridarsky.

This

Special Collections

- Access to ArchivesSpace was restored in early July, allowing Fess to accession a substantial amount of the backlog of recently acquired material. He completed six accession records in July, including accruals to the John Krist Faded Flags Manuscript (hand-lettered book series on New York casualties at Gettysburg), the

Grenell Family Papers (Rochester grocers of the Civil War era), and the Concert Programs Collection (materials formerly held in the Pamphlet File that have been re-described as an artificial collection).

- 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 continued processing the concert program collection.

Digital Projects

Fess completed work with Ryan Hughes of the Rochester Regional Library Council to upload Rochester Images metadata to the New York Heritage website. In June, the final collections that can be mounted at this time – Municipal Archives Early and Modern, and the Maps collection – were completed. These three collections are now fully accessible through NY Heritage: <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/rochester-public-library>.

Rochester Voices

Intern Jordyn Bagley (Nazareth College) continued summarizing and uploading oral history interviews for the Latino Oral Histories collection on Rochester Voices: <http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/latino-oral-histories/>.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- Two film programs were held. First Friday Films showed “King Richard” and See It First Matinee showed “The Witches.”
- The “Music in the Garden” series presented 3 concerts, very well attended.

Anecdotes/Other

- We received the following email from a patron:
“I wanted to send a quick thank you note for creating a pride month display in the Reynolds Media Center. It has been a difficult year for LGBT folks as book bans and laws have targeted LGBT people; transgender youth in particular. Seeing this display meant a lot to me because it shows that all people are welcome at the Central Library Branch.”
- RMC continues to curate the Mi-Fi collection. We added a story to our webpage to be sure patrons are aware of this service. As of this writing, we have approximately 275 circulating Mi-Fi units and 35 holds in the system. Approximately 72% of Mi-Fi circulations have been through holds! Patrons are always expressing how the Mi-Fi loans help them access internet that they cannot afford on their own. Recently, a patron wanted us to know that the Mi-Fi loan is helping her take care of her ailing father. She needs internet access and without Mi-Fi access, she would have less money to spend on her father’s care.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Canning Jams & Jellies 101 with Strawberries food preservation Zoom class was presented by Michele Conners and Andrea Lista from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. Growing Blueberries in the Home Garden Zoom program was presented by Jarmila Haseler, also from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. These gardening classes continue to be very popular.

- Healthy Living Series – these programs are presented by Sparkle Wells, Health Project Coordinator from the Center for Community Health & Prevention, University of Rochester Medical Center. There were four programs in June. The final two sessions of this series were presented in July; while attendance has been low, they may consider another set of these very worthwhile sessions virtually using Zoom or as a Saturday afternoon program series in early 2023 since January is a popular time for people making health goals after the fall/winter holidays.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Pellegrino attended a meeting of the Community-Driven Cancer Research Education Workgroup (this is part of the Wilmot Cancer Community Action Council). Further discussion on creating videos in Spanish and ASL regarding clinical trials.
- Lily Anthony worked with patrons from organizations looking for such grants as community food cupboards, church renovations, neighborhood cleanup, and arts and culture.
- LROC had 40+ visitors in June; about 6 of these were for LawNY; LROC missed several days due to various issues. In July, LROC had 40+ visitors; about 12 of these were for LawNY. Once again, LROC missed several days due to various issues and has decided at this point to discontinue their grant-funded Wednesdays at least through the end of summer.
- In July, Pellegrino met with a new student for the CHIC (Community Health Improvement Course) Distinction in Health program through the University of Rochester Medical Center. Ian Brodka will be working toward creating a stronger outreach program here at the library, with the idea of having a more regular schedule of students available for health checkups, etc. through Health Central.

Anecdotes/Other

- Renee Kendrot was approached by a patron who needed some assistance with a situation regarding his rent payment. The patron purchased a money order in the amount for his rent payment and dropped it in the rental mail slot at his apartment's rental office. He was notified by the manager at the rental office that she did not receive his payment and was told he would be evicted. The patron requested help in proving his payment. The patron showed Kendrot his Western Union receipt from the money order that he purchased for his rental payment amount which included how to request a refund. Kendrot and Pellegrino went to the Western Union site for more information. Upon learning there was an online refund option, Kendrot escorted the patron to Tech Services, where Ron Freitag was successful in assisting this patron. The patron stopped to thank Kendrot and tell her all was well.
- Flo Morris has been working with a patron on and off since October 2021, beginning on Reference Chat. He requested various titles and shared that he was interested in reading books on aviation relating to World War II and other wars. Morris has continued this relationship through email. Here is the latest email message to Morris:
"I'm touching base with you to find out if any new books have come your way that are aeronautic in feel, non-fiction, written by men that might be a good read for me? I've enjoyed the last two books you recommended and sent to the Pittsford Library for me to pick up. I'm 97 years young and enjoy reading in my downtime. Again, your recommendations are appreciated."
- Books continue to be weeded in the Dewey Decimal 305s (social groups) and a large project to weed History materials continues, which will allow shifting in the public stacks area for easier access.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

The daily number of questions recorded by the Technology Center in June increased by nearly 25% over the number recorded in May, and the daily computer sessions increased by 15%.

Anecdotes/Other

- A patron with whom staff worked about six months ago came in again and radiated energy and vitality. When they spoke to him months ago, he referenced his time in the penal system and the phrase "*I have a lot of time to make up*" was imprinted on their memories. This time they were laminating his temporary driver's license. He has a second job as the first one wasn't paying him enough. "*This one is better, and they pay me what I'm worth.*" He has a credit card now too. He knew he'd need a good credit score and committed himself to learn about credit card scams so he could keep a good credit score. He has a new and bigger apartment. His landlord even gave him a discount to keep him as a tenant. "*And I have a car. It doesn't seem real...yeah, I'm really an adult. And it's way easier than I thought. I'm just doing it. No distractions.*" As he packed up to leave, he said "*I will come back later this week to see Pedro and everyone else. I see one of the security guards that kept an eye out for me and still checks on me whenever I come in. I love this place. You all have been with me from the beginning. It's been about 18 months, and this is where I started. And this fall, college.*" The staff couldn't be happier to help him on his next adventure.
- The staff recently saw a man who used to come in almost every day. They had not seen him in months. Previously, he was always looking for a job. He said he had finally found one. "When you are homeless, that's hard. You have no idea." Now he needed help getting a housing application printed out. He was looking for a big apartment after two years of being essentially homeless.
- The fact that so many of our patrons rely on the library for access to the basic technologies needed to find work and housing for themselves and their families is not lost on the Technology Center staff. Every day they come to work with a clear sense of mission and commitment. Osborne would like to take a moment to publicly recognize them for the work they have done since the Technology Center opened almost two years ago. Jeanne Slocombe, Ron Freitag, Pedro Nunez, Judy Schewe, and Ryan Kovar are all members of this fantastic team. Each of them has specific strengths and abilities that they bring to Technology Center. This is a very challenging environment, but they are all committed to delivering the highest quality service they can. Whether it's helping with job searches, resume writing, or getting pay stubs printed from a cell phone, this team has consistently gone above and beyond to meet our patrons' needs. Despite the challenges of working in an environment that can be very difficult, they are true professionals.
- In July they had two patrons come back to update staff on their progress. One of them, Ken, laid out his tale of repeated trips to the library for help applying for work. He ran down the list of the staff he had worked with, jabbing his finger in the air, and pointing to each in turn, "You and her and that guy in the morning, I guess everybody here... I just wanted you and everyone else to know that I finally did get that job at the hospital." He said the very early hours have taken some getting used to. He stated that he wants to back into the building inspection trade. "I was good at it. I could walk into a construction site and could see a code violation, tell them to fix it and things got fixed. Nobody cut corners." With the first hint of a smile, he said, "I guess I miss that." He said he'll be back in a couple of weeks to start looking for ways to get back into that line of work. "You guys down here can help me with that?" After being assured we'd do our best he gave a quick nod and he left.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

The Glowforge made Father's Day gifts, a plaque for Chevo Studios, custom jewelry made by Queen, their 3rd-grade Digies winner, and many anime prints.



The new E-sports equipment – desks, chairs, PCs, and monitors - arrived. By July, the six-person E-sports setup was completed. In addition to the Alienware Aurora R13 PCs, they added the three R14s with liquid cooling, RTX 3080, and see-through side panels. Below is a picture of one of their registered E-sports teens using MetaHuman. The kids are already collecting wins on the new PCs. They currently have 14 kids registered for the E-sports team, which will start in September.



- Digital Art – The drawing tablet continued to get a lot of use this month. One extremely detailed logo was made as well as one drawing that will be added to the ceiling.
- Music Studio – A family did their first podcast in the studio this month. They also signed up for the Gale Udemy classes to learn more about music production.
- The D4G violence prevention program started in the music studio in July. The teens are learning all about music and expression in a therapeutic atmosphere.

- Girls Who Code: Attendees can participate online or in person. Those learning online will go at their own pace and are invited weekly to Teen Central to get assistance with the lessons and share their progress with other registered participants. Participants are making such good progress, GWC sent them free T-shirts, notebooks, and stickers.
- Craft 'n' Chat: Sewing basics were offered to teens. This includes things like hemming pants and sewing on buttons. In July, they made beaded bracelets.
- Teen Book Talk: Books discussed included *When You Look Like Us* by Pamela Harris and *Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen* by Jazz Jennings. They offered two sessions in July. Titles discussed were: *The Girl from the Sea* by Ostertag and *The Disability Experience: Working toward Belonging* by Leavitt.
- The Summer Reading program started with a great response from teens. Through July, many teens visited Teen Central and borrowed books along with their reading logs. They have lots of entries in their ballot box.
- Teen Dance Fitness: Faezah Jahanshiri enthusiastically taught yoga and belly-dancing classes. Participants were able to wear the adorned fitted hip belt while practicing.
- Teen Cooking Experience: Teens who participated in the cooking program said they had a lot of fun chopping vegetables and making chicken salad and pizza from scratch. They practiced safe food handling by disinfecting all surfaces and ensuring participants had multiple pairs of gloves. They also discussed the nutritional values of the ingredients, the prices of the grocery items, and safe food storage.



Anecdotes/Other

- AIMM – The Adolescents Inspiring through Multi-Media group started their summer program at the library this month. Their student-made website is below for behind-the-scenes media and information.
<https://express.adobe.com/page/ggl6yXvHgDhe4/>
- Silas Alvarez is Teen Central's Summer of Opportunity recruit. He has assisted with book displays and book reviews. He is interested in collection development and enjoys working at the Circulation Desk doing routing tasks. He has an awesome personality and easy-going attitude that makes him a wonderful candidate to join our library family permanently in the future. His professional goal is to be a school superintendent; he is getting valuable information from the teens about what they like and dislike about school.