



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: October 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report –October 2022

Action Items

Board Meeting Dates for 2023 (Uttaro)

The proposed Monroe County Library System Board meeting dates for 2023 are:

- January 23 (one week late due to MLK Jr. Day)
- February 22 (9:00 a.m. on a Wednesday, joint budget meeting with RPL)
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 26 (one week late due to Juneteenth)
- No Meeting in July
- August 21
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- No meeting in December

All meetings are held on Mondays from Noon–1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Most meetings are held at the Central Library with the occasional meeting scheduled at a Member Library.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed schedule of 2023 MCLS Board meetings.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Joint Board Retreat & Succession Planning

In September, I met with the MCLS and RPL Board Presidents and the Chair of the MCLS Board Personnel Committee to begin discussing succession planning for the Director's position. We discussed a proposed timeline and process for recruitment, the focus of my work for the next 2 years, and the focus of the boards for the next 2 years. We also discussed the possibility of scheduling a joint board retreat in January or February to fully review all these questions, then activating the Joint Boards Personnel Committee immediately after that retreat. Debi Mansour will poll the trustees in November for a date in January.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Brighton Memorial Library

Circulation Supervisor Jennifer Mancuso has coordinated a massive effort to take back the library's three gardens. Weedlike, what started as a small project grew into the recruitment of nine volunteers and donations of over thirty plants. Along with working during her regularly scheduled hours, Jen donated many hours of her personal time.

Chili Public Library

Chili Public Library has been on the go! After visiting the Churchville Chili Middle School annual *Celebrate!* event, the library joined in the fun at the Town of Chili's Bicentennial Founder's Day Picnic. Books, donated by the Friends of the Chili Public Library, were given away at both events.



East Rochester Public Library

- Holds are now free for Children's and Young Adult materials at the East Rochester public library.
- ERPL had some very special and talented patrons visit the Library: Actor/Director/Producer Alex Fernandez and Actress/Producer, Elspeth Weingarten. Alex is currently filming episodes for the Showtime original series, "American Gigolo." Elspeth has been busy in recent years doing a variety of stage productions in the Los Angeles area while making appearances on popular tv programs such as "9-1-1: Lonestar." Alex was kind enough to take the time to record ER's voicemail message portraying Juan Cortez, the character he voiced for the hit video game "Far Cry 6."

Hamlin Public Library

- The homeschool program was back in action for September! Thanks to Bing Reeves and Danny Walker for sharing an amazing presentation about the Buffalo Soldiers.
- Also returning for this month was Cookbook Club. The participants enjoyed a potluck meal of spicy sausage pizza, butter chicken, BBQ chicken bites, garlic butter shrimp with basmati rice, phyllo-wrapped salami and provolone rolls, chocolate Krispy bars, apple pie, and no-churn graham cracker sweet butter ice cream. Everything was delicious and the company was great!



Henrietta Public Library

On September 1, in coordination with the Rush Public Library, all fines for materials from Henrietta Public Library were eliminated. Lost and damaged items will still be billed for replacement. We expect, with the elimination of late fines, that patrons will:

- Come back to the library without fear of judgment.
- Check out materials without having to worry about late fines.
- Return materials on time to benefit the whole community.

Read more about the elimination of fines here: <https://www.hpl.org/news/hpl-eliminates-late-fines/>

Irondequoit Public Library

Shoppers who attended the Book Sale on September 16th and 17th purchased gently used materials to donate to Irondequoit's sister library in Roma, Texas. The sister library is building a new addition funded by Starr County, Texas. Early in September, there was a back-to-school program with Penelope the Dinosaur from *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins! Penelope was very well-behaved and didn't once confuse MEETING children with EATING children... we think. 😊

Mendon Public Library

The Mendon library took the MCLS book bike to the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District Fall Parade and gave out almost 200 books!



Parma Public Library

Parma's 90s Night, Library After Dark event was totally RAD! Lunchables, Nintendo 64 games, and flannel were enjoyed by all. Folks have suggested the 80s or Disney night for a Library After Dark event in the new year.

Penfield Public Library

Penfield Public Library took a whole week to celebrate its 80th Anniversary with giveaways, parties, and cake! It started Saturday with a family celebration on the lawn with Story Laurie. On Monday and Wednesday, the first fifty patrons to check out books were given commemorative 80th-anniversary book bags. Tuesday, they enjoyed an 80th-anniversary cake and gave away library swag. Friday saw a well-attended tea party. The event featured festive hats, live music, and a look back at the history of the library.



Pittsford Community Library

The library continued to use the MCLS Books by Bike at outdoor events, including the Pittsford Food Truck & Music Fest. With the bike parked at the corner of Church Street and South Main Street, patrons were able to check out books and play oversized games all while enjoying the great music and food of the festival.

Rush Public Library

The Rush Library Board of Trustees voted to eliminate overdue fines on all of our books, music, and movies, effective at the beginning of September. There were many reasons for this decision, including:

- A decade of steeply-declining fine revenue from due-date reminder emails & texts.
- Increased use of Overdrive E-books (which don't have overdue fines.)
- An economy that is creating more financial stress for families and seniors on fixed incomes in our community.

Patrons will still be accountable for returning items and for paying overdue fines on items from other county libraries that do charge fines. We will continue to use a collection agency for accounts over \$35.

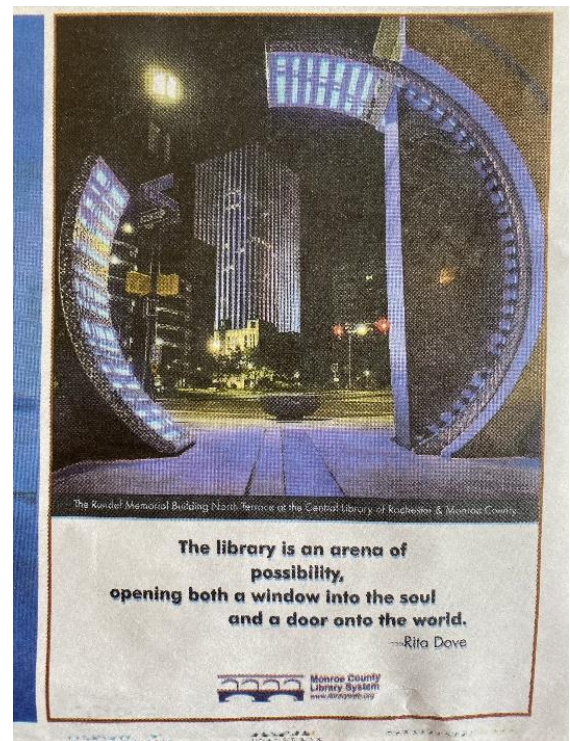
Seymour Library

September saw a lot of changes in staffing for Seymour library. Jennifer Erler-Perry (Caccavale) is leaving Seymour to be the new Director at Gates Public Library. Leslie Boedicker is the new Adult Services Librarian, Patrick Pittman is the new Young Adult Librarian, and Jen Silmsler joined Seymour as the new Children's Librarian.

MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

September saw the finalization distribution of the MCLS passport pamphlet to all member library locations. Included in the distribution were stamp pads, stamps, and MCLS stress balls to give away to participants. Smathers collaborated with Corinne Clar on the creation of an advertisement for MCLS Libraries in the Rochester Business Journal September 23rd edition (Volume 38 Number 17). The advertisement was included with the MCLS sponsorship for the Women's Leadership Event.



Social Media

September 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	1586	986	328	3	3	15	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	1 (2,121)	7 (2,261)	39 (5,877)	-	47	23 (2,265)	1 (410)
Engagements	69	77	1288	49	110	211	44
Check-In/ Mentions	27	25	-	-	-	28	-
Post Reach	2402	4658	8060	1779	-	6084	11588
Video/Story Views	-	-	611	-	-	879	800
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	4	-	-	36	-

OverDrive

In anticipation of Writers & Books 2022 Rochester Reads going on in October and early November, Alicia Gunther worked with Kristin Press at OverDrive to get discounted pricing for the e-book and audiobook of “Hell of a Book” by Jason Mott. Simultaneous use of this title will be available to patrons from September 25 – November 5 to align with the Rochester Reads events. In the first week of offering the title as CPC, the e-book and audiobook circulated 112 times.

Events & Meetings

On September 8 Smathers and Gunther met with representatives from the Rochester Americans hockey team to begin preparations for the next Amerks Reading Power Play series with MCLS member libraries. This year MCLS and the team plan to return to in-person story times and athlete meet & greets. The kickoff event is planned for early November at one of the local Wendy's restaurants followed by 10 library programs happening from November–January.

Anecdotes/Other

- Marketing - The team discussed again how to spend the \$7800 in Reynolds trust fund money on marketing. After brainstorming, we settled on a TV and radio ad campaign using local celebrities to advertise special collections (fishing poles, ukuleles, sewing machines, etc.) and services (Notary service) that people often don't know we offer. The theme of the campaign would be: “With my library card, I” This information and the initial list of possible local celebrities to contact were shared with Assistant Director Smathers. Lenio requested and received updated advertising quotes from 13WHAM TV and WDKX radio station.

Extension/Outreach Department

General Services and Programs

- Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 11 library stations and fulfilled special requests for 7 stations.

- Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 17 in-home patrons; made 1 materials pickup; and 1 technology support visit. One new patron was added this month.

In-Home Materials Distribution

- Home Deliveries: 15 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)
- Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: 1 patron 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

In-Home program feedback from Kate F. (City of Rochester)

"Libraries have been critically important to me all my life, from kindergarten through learning to use a computer as an adult student. Part of what I love about it is how good the staff has always been to me and to my children. Any place I've ever gone, I've had a library. When I came back to Rochester and retired, I couldn't drive anymore, and it became much harder for me to get there.

You give me the time to talk through what I'm interested in and go above and beyond to find what I'm looking for. I tell people I have my own personal librarian! I'm exploring things I've never read before and following the path that the resources lead me down. So the thing that's most important to me that I didn't realize until I sat down to think about it, is that this program has created a bridge for me. It's a reconnection with a life source."

Corrections and Reentry Support

Library Assistant, Wes Becker, coordinated a meeting with Monroe County Reentry Advocates from the Center for Community Alternatives and LawNY and Outreach staff to flesh out the details of a reentry programming series the department is launching this winter. The series will include four topics and run from December through March.

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

Site Recruitment Visits: Librarians Maren Kyle and Amy Discenza met with staff from two affordable, age-eligible apartment complexes in Irondequoit, Skyview Park, and Meadow Reserve, to discuss the possibility of setting up community library stations at these sites.

Outreach

- Amy Discenza spoke to a lively group at the Lifespan Lily Café at the Maplewood YMCA about library services for older adults. In her presentation, Discenza gave an overview of Outreach Department services; valuable library partnerships and collaborations such as LROC, the Empire Justice CASH program, and the Foodlink Community Café; as well as library collections, programs, and digital services that promote lifelong learning (and fun). The Lily Café is a community gathering space that provides daily programming and an engaging atmosphere for YMCA members ages 55 and better.
- Discenza spoke, via Zoom, to the September 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; valuable library partnerships and collaborations such as LROC, the Empire Justice CASH program, and the Foodlink Community Cafe; and, of course, the many ways one can use the library to save some money and have a little fun. 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 Arnett Branch Children's Librarian Nancy Cholewa represented RPL at the Rochester Academy Charter School Open House for grades 6 through 8 this month. Discenza and Cholewa distributed library information, played a book jacket identification game, and read aloud from Carlos Hernandez's *Sal & Gabi Break the Universe* to students and their families.

Event Spotlight: Short Story Discussion at Lifespan Wolk Café

Outreach Department staff Maren Kyle, Amy Discenza, and Adrian Pereyra visited the Wolk Café this month to facilitate a short story discussion group. 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. Discenza and Kyle previously visited the café to present information about library services. This month, they distributed large print copies of *The Paper Menagerie* by Ken Liu to program participants and played an audio recording of the story from the podcast *Levar Burton Reads*. After, they led a discussion about the story with many attendees sharing their thoughts about the story and making connections to their lives. They also taught a brief lesson on folding an origami paper crane and provided information about the Chinese zodiac, both thematically connected to the story. They plan to bring another story to the Wolk Café in October and may continue monthly if the response continues to be positive.

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting

Anecdotes/Other

- Dana, along with Alison Bieber, Mary Fraser, and Jonathan Hammond participated in a play date on the South Terrace. A mom and her two daughters stopped to play badminton, ring toss, and the ladder toss game. Bieber challenged them to a jump rope contest, which she lost when one of the girls jumped backward. A father and son stopped on their way to the skatepark. The staff was able to instruct him on a better parking space than the one he chose. They left with calendars, t-shirts, and a promise to talk up the library everywhere they went that day. The games were also brought out for the ice cream social on the North Terrace; however, the wind was a deterrent to most of the games. Instead, Hammond, Dana, Debi Mansour, and Susan Lusignan created some sidewalk chalk art promoting the library.
- Dana was contacted by Mozart Guerrier, a Police Accountability Board member, who was interested in hosting a table at RPL to dispense information. They have visited twice and can take complaints from the public on the spot. Dana was also contacted by Ana Martinez, from the Center for Community Alternatives. Ana stopped by one of the play dates and is interested in a partnership with the library.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Select Programs

- Sewing to Help Our Community with SewGreen@Rochester--Central Library is always looking for ways to help its community. For this class, Georgia Carney from SewGreen@Rochester taught patrons how to sew baby items to be donated to the Crisis Nursery. Patrons expressed their gratitude to be able to sew and donate and to get helpful sewing tips from Carney. One patron commented, *"I like learning skills and helping the community!"* *"Keep running and informing us about programs like this,"* and *"I thank you for offering the classes, providing great service, and thinking outside the box to come up with more programs."*
- The George W. Cooper Doll Collection Talk-- Patrons learned about this special doll collection, from the former Head of the Children's Center, Barbara Billingsley. Billingsley provided an enlightening history of how the dolls were acquired and also provided information about the detailed ethnic dress each doll wears. One of the many stories that stood out was the one about the Australian doll. A couple visited with a friend from Australia to the Secret Room when it was in the Children's Room on the second floor of Rundel. The Australian visitor was not happy to see that back in 1934, the Australians donated a Koala to the collection. She felt that a doll was much more appropriate than a Koala and followed up by donating a doll representative of Australia. The visitor from Australia also watched Barbara's Zoom video and commented *"Thank you! You have made one Australian very happy on this Spring morning!"* Those who attended very much enjoyed her presentation with one attendee commenting, *"The history of the collection is fascinating and was brought to life by her. Excellent presentation!"*
- Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month: Create a Puerto Rican Viajante Mask-- Patrons created a colorful Viajante mask that is taken from festivals in Puerto Rico. The mask is made to be worn in Carnaval de Ponce, which is held in February and coincides with Lent. These masks were made from a glue/plaster mixture and then were painted in vibrant colors. All supplies were provided to students. Patrons enjoyed making this colorful mask celebrating Hispanic heritage and hearing the teacher, Hector Manuel, talk about the history of the mask and its origins in Puerto Rican culture.



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 5 in person, 20 by email, 0 by mail, and 2 by phone.

Hours of in-depth market research: 61

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 13

Tracy Jong appointments: 2 hours and 45 minutes, 4 people served

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: 23 Page Views; Value \$69,650

IBISWorld: 161 Page Views; Value \$56,620

InnovationQ: 8 Logins; 156 Searches

PitchBook: 21 Logins

Statista: 72 Visits; 47 Downloads

Programs

Business First Wednesday: Financial Wellness for Your Business, Part 1 of 3, with Andrea Colline of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester. Business owners learned how to order their credit reports, how to read their credit reports, and how to dispute and correct inaccurate credit reporting information. We discussed the importance of personal credit for business lending opportunities.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with the following to discuss BIC services: Albert Rivera of Pathstone Enterprise Center, Maisha Beard-Johnson of Community Wealth Building for the City, Amir Khan of MARL (mobility, AI/VR, robotics, logistics), and Rami Katz of Excell Partners.
- Byrnes had multiple meetings with multiple people who were applying for the Conditional Adult Use Recreational Dispensary (CAURED) license through the Office of Cannabis Management. The license application was extremely complicated and time-consuming. Byrnes estimates she spent 8 hours assisting one applicant.
- Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh met with Elizabeth Dougherty, Eastern Regional Outreach Director, and Stephen Yunchuck, Special Advisor to the Eastern Outreach Office of the US Patent and Trademark Office, who came to the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property and BIC to have a tour of the area and discuss our outreach, training, and community partnerships. They were so impressed with our level of outreach they recommended we speak at the USPTO annual training.
- Byrnes and Meddaugh presented to Syracuse University Innovation Law Center and MARL Accelerator cohort, based in Silicon Valley. Meddaugh and Melissa Cobo went to Canandaigua's Wood Library to present on the services of BIC and the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property.



Anecdotes/Other

Byrnes assisted cannabis Conditional Adult Use Recreational Dispensary license applicants through the laborious application process. Here is one happy patron who completed the process.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

Stories at the Park: Toddler Storytime at Highland Park continued Tuesdays in September. Participants enjoyed songs, stories, and movement activities. Using Talking is Teaching graphics and Supercharged Storytime literary tips, Katie Powell encouraged parents to engage with their infants and toddlers as they go about their daily activities, as a child's brain develops most rapidly in the first 3 years of life. Attendance declined as the weather grew colder, and the program will transition into the Secret Room in the fall.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Association for Library Service to Children Institute: Cathy Kyle and Miranda Hazen attended the Association for Library Service to Children Institute, including Opening Session with Author Christina Soontornvat, Big Ideas Session with Dr. Nicole Cooke: Radically Re-Envisioning LIS and Collaborative Authorship with Adam Gidwitz and Hena Khan.

MCLS Director's Report – October 2022 (Continued)

- Some ideas that they are interested in using here are “Music and Movement,” storytime using yoga, a summer lunchtime book discussion, and “Craft and Chat” an open-ended craft program with an opportunity to speak with a social worker.
- Hoekelman Center 2022 Pediatric Links with the Community (PLC) Advocacy Award: Katie Powell and the rest of the staff were recognized for their outstanding teaching and excellence in caring for the children of Rochester. This is an award voted on by all the residents who participated in PLC throughout 2022. Powell meets with residents to share what services families can receive at our libraries and what library programs are being offered.
- The Children’s Center received funding from the Friends and Foundation to assemble Citizen Science Kits. Citizen Science is the process by which the public shares and contributes to scientific data monitoring and collection programs by crowd-sourcing data. It involves the public in scientific research and is mutually beneficial for professional scientists and volunteer data collectors. Kits are geared towards children 8-12 years old. They contain activity guides (in English and Spanish) and tools used for gathering and reporting observations.



Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments - 14
- New Borrowers - 178
- RRLC Access Cards Issued - 5
- Notarial Acts - 133

Anecdotes/Other

- Miranda Hazen from the Children’s Center helped two different families with one common problem: their children had cards that had been blocked due to fines and fees years ago and they wanted to see if they could get help getting their kids new cards. Hazen brought the information to Cunningham and the two worked to clear the fines and fees from Central. Cunningham contacted the Henrietta Library to get the remainder cleared. Hazen was able to contact the families and issue new cards to the kids.
- Cunningham recently notarized an application for a marriage license for Washington state. The couple were...well...giddy is the only word to describe them. They smiled and took pictures of the application. It was an amazingly sweet moment.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- First Friday Films presented the film *After Yang*.
- See It First Saturday Matinee presented *Elvis*.
- Brown Bag Book Discussion covered *Whereabouts* by Jhumpa Lahiri. There was an in-person group on 9/21 and a zoom group on 9/23.
- The popular Concert in the Garden series continued with: Amanda Ashley on 9/6, Roisin Dubh on 9/13, Katie Morey on 9/20, and Cerberus Trio on 9/27.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

RMC used money from the Kroll fund to purchase streaming equipment for use in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. On Tuesday, September 27th we streamed our first program to YouTube, about the book *The Violence Project*.

Anecdotes/Other

FFRPL has received hundreds of DVD/Blu-Ray donations in the last 4-6 weeks. RMC is checking the condition of these items for our collection. Donations are being added to the collection as new titles, or as replacements for heavily used discs.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

As the number of special collections in Local History & Genealogy has grown, space for properly storing these collections has become increasingly limited. Having been granted additional storage space in the Link level of the Bausch & Lomb Building, the division began cleaning and prepping the space and moving materials into it this month.

Orders Fulfilled	September 2021	September 2022	Increase
Life Records	3	37	1,133%
Newspaper Index	5	10	100%
Rochester Images	4	31	675%

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The Local History & Genealogy Division hosted five programs in September, including a program held in conjunction with the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Celebration and the arrival of the “Journey to Freedom” traveling sculpture that is in Washington Square Park from September 2 until October 31. “Harriet on the Move!” with Delores Jackson Radney of Kummba Consultants was an interactive dance based on a poem by Eloise Greenfield focusing on Tubman’s life and travels. The program was scheduled to be held on the newly renovated Rundel Terrace, but patrons requested to move inside due to the hot temperature that evening.
- The fall series of *Mourning in the Morning*, presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, kicked off with a talk by Marcia Birken and Marjorie Searl on “Holocaust Survivors in Mount Hope Cemetery.” The program was held via Zoom; a recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3hct5eobLDY>.
- The first program in the fall series of *Rochester’s Rich History* featured a talk and performance by Christopher Shannon entitled “A Little Slip of Heaven: Songs and Stories of the Rochester Irish, from Baby Boom to Baby Bust.”

- The division also hosted an open house for the current exhibit in the Local History Exhibits Hall: *Welcome Home: Celebrating Rochester's Immigrants*. The evening event was well attended and included many of the community partners who contributed items to the exhibit (see photo).



Photograph provided by Tamara Denysenko.

Special Collections

- Fess completed a detailed survey of the Mortimer F. Delano papers element of the Montgomery & Angell Family Papers and began working on their final arrangement. Fess continued in-house conservation work on damaged and/or fragile items from the map collection.
- *Archive of Black History & Culture*
Antoine McDonald became the Project Manager for the Archive of Black History & Culture project. The library received 43 applications for 10 paid community curator positions that will constitute the Community Advisory Board tasked with setting a mission, vision, and strategic plan for the archive. The applicant pool is strong and includes people with a range of skill sets, perspectives, community connections, and experience in archival and/or historical work. McDonald formed a selection committee of library staff and community advisors who are in the process of reviewing the applications and identifying leading candidates. Final candidates will be selected in October, to have all 10 positions filled by the end of that month.

Digital Projects

- The library received confirmation that Family Search has identified two volunteers to operate its planned scanning center. Equipment, volunteers, and Family Search staff will arrive in early November to set up the scanning center and train the volunteers. The first items to be scanned include city and suburban directories and yearbooks. Local History & Genealogy Division staff will update the board monthly on which items have been scanned and will seek preapproval from the board before beginning to digitize different types of material.
- Fess arranged to have four maps, all related to Native American sites and trails in the Rochester area, imaged by Editions Printing. This small digitization project was funded by a generous patron who needed copies of the maps for her research. Once the final images are received, they will be added to the division's digital map collection in CARL.

Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 115 views in September: "A Genealogy of Place: Frequently Asked Questions about House Research, Part One" by Christopher Brennan and "In Search of Lost Suds: Rum Running in Rochester, Part 2" by Emily Morry. In addition to these posts, readers from 31 countries revisited 174 previously published posts for a total of 1,973 views. All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Interns/Volunteers

The division's work was supported by five volunteers and one intern in September for a total contribution of 67 hours. Karen Sue Brown, a long-time volunteer with the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, began sorting and filing the backlog of newspaper clippings this month; she contributed 17.5 hours. Linda Lopata contributed 8 hours to rehousing and cataloging items in a collection of pinback buttons in the Office of the City Historian. Stephanie Ball contributed 10.75 hours arranging an assortment of unsorted archival material. Kaye Knoll provided 9.5 hours working on the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club records. Noeme Liestman provided 3.25 hours finalizing the arrangement and housing of the 35mm slides in the Roger B. Smith photograph

collection. Intern George Macko (SUNY Geneseo) contributed 18 hours completing work on the Concert Programs Collection and beginning work on the Rochester Business Institute Records. Macko will also be editing oral history transcripts.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

The Renaissance, hosted by St. John Fisher University history professor Oliver Griffin, brought in a small group of people who were engaged throughout Professor Griffin's presentation and asked great questions. Lily Anthony, Renee Kendrot, and Gabe Pellegrino planned and publicized this program using online community calendars including City Newspaper, WXXI, Beyond the Nest, and the library's social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Pellegrino attended the Community-Driven Cancer Research Team Meeting (part of the Community Conversations on Cancer – Wilmot CCAC partnership). Discussed were this month's retreat and what would be covered, as well as awards for members, community partners, and community organizations.

All the Science staff attended the two-part 8-hour Mental Health Training given by Megan Clifford and/or Norman Simmons. The general feeling was that the training was excellent but somewhat heavy. Several staff members felt a bit overwhelmed, but overall, a positive, worthwhile experience.

LROC visitors were back up again to about 50. Much of this is due to the return of cold weather. People are looking especially for housing, but we have seen needs for food and clothing return. We will find out if food or clothing can be stored here, which was the case before the pandemic. At this point, LROC is only available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For the time being, LawNY has backed out of the Friday legal assistance; this will be revisited in the future.

Anecdotes/Other

The Mental Health Training was already put to good use by Flo Morris, who was able to assist a patron with a mental health crisis during an evening shift by sharing a list of resources from the training with the patron and by contacting Crisis Health Services. CHS was able to come to the library and pick up the patron who was in desperate need of shelter. Morris again used the resources for a patron who came in asking for information on anxiety. Morris photocopied some of the pages on anxiety from one of the resource books that was given in the two sessions of the mental health training as well as provided some books from the collection.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

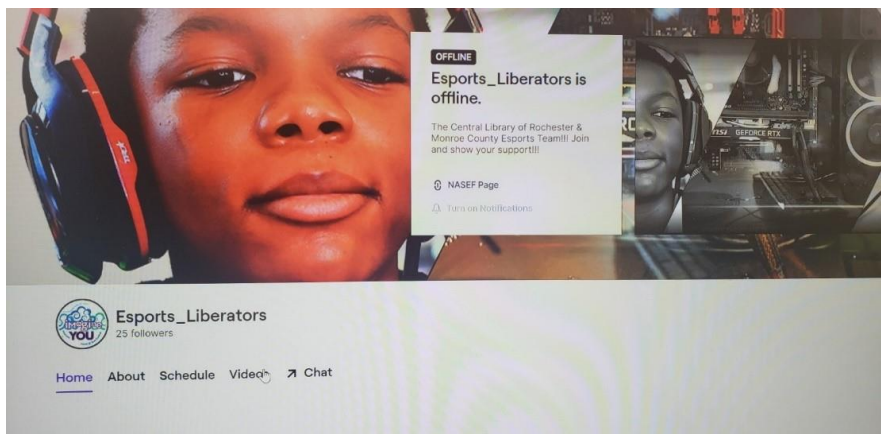
Programs

Collaborations with Digital Literacy Volunteers and Rochester Works are still developing. Shafayet is the Digital Literacy Volunteer who will be teaching some classes here when his training is complete. He will be using the curriculum from North Star Digital Literacy. This curriculum and related study material are freely available online, making it very simple for students to work on their own. Some staff in the Tech Center have used this same curriculum to test and expand their knowledge of productivity software and other topics in computer technology.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Girls Who Code: The members are working on lessons online at their own pace. There are weekly meetings where participants can discuss the lessons, triumphs, and problem-solving involved in the learning process. All members have access to free online resumes and tech job interview workshops.
- Teens have joined the Teen Advisory Board and Volunteering program to complete their high school community work hours.
- The 4 sessions of “Learn to Make Your Own Website with WordPress” were well attended. A few participants found it especially useful and started building their websites using WordPress templates. Tutorials are accessible through this Google Drive folder. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vV2EmCScLE-HDtJ9Gp9etW2TfZICdwhU>
- E-Sports – The Central Library E-Sports team participated in their first event this month. Frontier Communications bought the team new keyboards, mice, and streaming equipment. One of our team members set up our stream deck, wave 1 microphone, Facecam, and capture card. The team has also agreed on a name: Central Library Liberators. The team’s twitch account has been set up and already has 25 followers.



- Music Studio – Certifications continued as scheduled this month. The music studio continues to get near constant use.



- The Glowforge was used to test different materials this month. Keychains were successfully made. During the experience, participants discovered that engraving photos on acrylic does not work well.

Anecdotes/Other

Ms. Colleen and her students enjoyed a tour of the Teen Center and ImagineYou Lab. They spent some time researching nearby places of interest online, i.e. Strong Museum, the skate park, and places to eat. We checked to see if our new friends had operational library accounts so we could provide replacement cards. No one was in our system, but those who chose to be signed up for library cards did and one young lady checked out a book for the first time that she could ever recall. She also said, *“this is my favorite place in the city, and I will be back soon.”*

