



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: November 21, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report –November 2022

Action Items

2023 Professional Services Agreement with CampbellNet Solutions

Library Automation Services has identified data communication needs with various network equipment infrastructures. CampbellNet has provided services at member libraries and for LAS for several years. The contractor will bill for services rendered at a rate of \$150 per hour. If there is a need for parts or equipment replacement, MCLS will pay state contract pricing, or the actual cost paid by the contractor. The total amount of the contract will not exceed \$5,000 with a term of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, and is funded from the 2023 MCLS operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve a professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Amended Agreement, Disaster Recovery Backup Services

The Board approved a three-year off-site backup storage service solution maintained by our primary hardware vendor, Tri-Delta Resources, in 2018, with a one-year amendment extension in January 2022. This service enables key server backup and replication to Tri-Delta's site in Canandaigua, with a VPN between the two sites to provide connectivity in the event of a disaster.

Maintenance of this service is \$10,320 per year, and we are recommending one last additional extension through December 31, 2023, to establish the redundant network at our server location on the Monroe County airport campus. Funding for backup support was allocated in the 2023 MCLS operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve an extension to the agreement with Tri-Delta Resources, Inc. through December 31, 2023, for disaster recovery backup services.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Monroe County Library System is the Winner of the 2022 Literacy Rochester Brain Game Trivia Contest, led by Pellegrino as Team Captain. This year marked the first win for the MCLS. Representing Central Library: Pellegrino, Bob Scheffel, Maren Kyle; Branches: Sarah Lehman, Lincoln; Towns: Jason Poole, Webster; Sarah Dennison, Henrietta; Matt Filipski, Henrietta, and Mendon. Literacy Rochester is a local group whose mission is to improve the reading, English language, math, and digital literacy skills of adults in Monroe County. The MCLS is a long-time sponsor of the organization; other sponsors include community agencies and local businesses and law firms.



MCLS Strategic Goals

Going forward, there will be a better connection to the 4 MCLS strategic goals identified during our planning process last year. As a reminder those goals are:

1. Improved communication and connection throughout the system.
2. Enhancing the role of MCLS in the community.
3. Addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the system.
4. Provide leadership for member libraries and the community in the digital world.

This month, we have begun to address goal number 1 by assembling a “One-System” team that will work towards providing more opportunities for MCLS staff to engage with each other socially and professionally. The research done during our strategic planning period revealed that many staff feels very disconnected from the system and each other. The One System team will work on things like re-invigorating the MCLS/RPL Staff Association, staff exchanges, and improving communication between and among member libraries and the system.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Collaborative Programs hosted by multiple member libraries:

Rochester Reads!

Jason Mott’s 2021 National Book Award-winning novel, *Hell of a Book*, was the featured 2022 Rochester Reads selection. *Hell of a Book* is at once about family, the love of parents and children, art, and money. It also is about the nation’s reckoning with a tragic police shooting playing over and over again on the news. Penfield hosted the in-person book signing event that was live-streamed to libraries across MCLS.

Brighton Memorial Library

Friends held a successful book sale from October 18-24. BML's annual staff training day was held on October 14, covering financial planning, protecting your ID, recognizing stress, depression, and anxiety in your colleagues, and how to help. De-escalation training was provided by the Brighton Police Department in the afternoon. Due to the approaching retirement of Gail Montean, the library is recruiting for a full-time Library Clerk, who will work between the Circulation Desk and coordinating the highly popular and successful Partners in Reading for Seniors (PIRS) program

Chili Public Library

October was Dyslexia Awareness Month. The library screened the film 'Mical' and then had a discussion where participants learned more about dyslexia, and how to support those who struggle to read printed words.

East Rochester Public Library

A Panda, a Hot Dog, a Hippo, and Mirabel walked into the library, then our Halloween event somehow morphed into a second Lego club. A good time was had by all.

Fairport Public Library

The Genealogy Club met on Monday, October 17. The presentation covered different types of photographs one may encounter in genealogical research, how to use them to research your family history, and how to help them live forever.

Gates Public Library

October 16-22 was the 17th annual National Friends of Libraries Week, it was the perfect opportunity to give the Friends a big shout-out for all they do to make a difference for the library every single day. Established in 1986, the Friends of the Gates Public Library has given nearly \$1,000,000 over the years to fund children's programming, provide new furniture, contribute funding for new and emerging technology, and help support staff training. In addition, the Friends have rallied countless times to advocate for adequate library funding.

Greece Public Library

A patron commented on the library's Halloween Fun Facebook post, "Greece has the best library!!!" It certainly had a load of little ghouls dressed up for the occasion.



Henrietta Public Library

Meet Henrietta Library's new Board Member, Michelle! Here is a little bit about Michelle:

"I have been a resident of Henrietta for over 20 years. I have a Bachelor's in Social Work with a Master's in Public Administration. The majority of my career has been in Human Services. I currently live with my loving and supportive husband, Andrew, and our rescue dog Cheech. I love this town and appreciate the diversity of the residents.

As a Henrietta resident, I also appreciate and love the library. I am a native Rochesterian and grew up within the Nineteenth Ward. I remember walking with my siblings to our neighborhood library. Envisionment of walking through the wooden doors, the smell, bright lights, and beauty of endless rows of books flood my mind to this day. Once inside, I felt my whole world opening up. The experience of coming across books that were tangible is something that the digital world can never recreate.

I love the ability to read and to be absorbed in the words. And when I became a mom, I relished in seeing my beautiful daughters, Qianna and Jenae, beam with the joy of reading and, I see that continue with my grandchildren, Soniya, Harris, and Ella. In addition to my love of books, I enjoy biking with the ladies of Black Girls Do Bike Rochester group."



Irondequoit Public Library

The Spooky Magic Show, presented by professional magician Cris Johnson, featured music, age-appropriate humor, delightful magic, audience participation, and more! The show was for children ages 4-12 and any fun-loving adults! A 'ghost' flew around the room, a trained animal found a selected card, a table mysteriously floated in the air, and a drawing of Frankenstein's monster came to life.

Mendon Public Library

Cybersecurity for Seniors was run by RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) Computing Security accelerated master's students in the CyberCorps[®] Scholarship for Service (SFS) program. The event covered basic cybersecurity concepts, safe internet usage tips, and red flags indications of email scams. Participants had an opportunity to ask the students broad questions about cybersecurity, addressing their fear or curiosities about online safety.

Ogden Farmers' Library

Halloween is the only day of the year that you will see Edger Allen Poe and a human Rubik's Cube in the same place and time! This month also saw a Teen Laser-maze event. Teens tested their skills while navigating through a maze of "lasers" to perform the ultimate heist. Okay, okay, the lasers might not have been real, but the challenge was!



Parma Public Library

Thank you to everyone who voted on this year's Storybook pumpkins! Our winners for the three categories were: Dumbo, Wedgie & Gizmo, and Elephant & Piggie!



Penfield Public Library

Penfield hosted Jason Mott, author of this year's Rochester Reads selection, "Hell of a Book." Mott talked a bit about his writing, answered audience questions, and signed copies of his National Book Award-winning novel. Thank you to [Writers & Books](#) for collaborating with MCLS on the event and thank you to the Friends of the Penfield Public Library for funding the author's talk and so many other wonderful library programs! The morning before his appearance Mott was interviewed on Good Day Rochester. <https://foxrochester.com/news/good-day-rochester/author-jason-mott-of-hell-of-a-book-selected-for-rochester-reads-community-wide-program>



Pittsford Community Library

The [Opera Guild of Rochester](#) presented an afternoon of storytelling through song in their Fisher Meeting Room. Tenor Chadwick Dehaven and Soprano Jessica Moss performed songs that were engaging for the opera lover and accessible for the opera curious.

Ben Scrivens from [FRIGHT-RAGS](#) and John Magnus Champlin promoted the Legacy and Lore of Horror in the '80s! on News 8 WROC Rochester. The panel discussion also featured Chris Hogan-Roy of [The Little Theatre](#).

Rush Public Library

Folks looking to cultivate garlic, or maybe avoid vampires, were invited to a Garlic Workshop presented by Nutrition Educator Ally Miller and Agricultural Educator Jarmila Haseler from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Locally grown, organic garlic, for pre-sale by Fraser's Farm in Churchville, was delivered at the workshop held in the William Udicious Pavilion.

Scottsville Free Library

The library and Wheatland Historic Association hosted Caitlin Meives, Director of Preservation at the Landmark Society of Western New York. Caitlin discussed the importance of a Historic District and what the Landmark Society can offer to owners of historic buildings. The next day the library held its 54th annual book sale.

Seymour Library

Rochester Candlelight Ghost Walks joined with the Seymour Library for a spooky scavenger hunt and ghost story hour! The all-ages presentation was full of local history, legends, and lore. Thursday, October 13th the library celebrated the launch of two new reading initiatives: Baby Dragons & 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten! The Happy Pirates were there to help us kick things off on the right foot.

Webster Public Library

Seasonal events filled the library this October. The Paranormal Society Ghost Talk, Hallo(T)ween, and Spooky Storytime all brought patrons into the library. One famous family entered the library to participate in early voting.



MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Smathers found that staffing challenges required more direct supervision of Shipping than previously anticipated. The distribution of MCLS purchased Roberts Rules in Brief 3rd edition was impacted by a delay in fulfillment of our bulk order. Incremental improvements have been planned for the circulation of MCLS-owned Giant Games and other shared items. The plan is to add short records into CARL that are suppressed from public view. Items will have barcodes and be checked out by the libraries that have them. This will provide more accurate tracking than the current method.

Cataloging for the VIP passes was analyzed by Smathers. For increased patron usability records in CARL were enhanced with tags to aid discovery, hyperlinks to the partner organizations, and photographs to replace the default grey icon. The MCLS VIP webpage was updated to link directly to the CARL record for each organization, indicating in real-time, what passes were available at which library location.

Alicia Gunther attended a “Big Read” meeting with NITD in preparation for the Big Read event happening April 1–30, 2023 that will feature the title *Deaf Republic* by Ilya Kaminsky. Gunther is working with OverDrive to make this title available for simultaneous use through the MCLS account in Overdrive and on the Libby app.

Social Media

October 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	571	654	317	0	0	29	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	1	0	36	0	27	16	15
Engagements	82	92	2,029	46	86	353	40
Check-In/ Mentions	35	27	-	-	-	28	-
Post Reach	3,663	4,179	6,200	1,066	-	6,093	25,442
Video/Story Views	-	-	522	-	-	113	1,028

OverDrive August

- Total Checkouts- 77,474
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 866
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 6,567
- SORA Checkouts- 673
- Great Courses- 101

Extension/Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting

Corrections and Reentry Support

Wes Becker gave a presentation about reentry resources for justice-involved persons at the Sully Branch Library. Participants learned about local free resources, educational and training opportunities, and a unique employer hiring incentive for persons with barriers to employment. The discussion also focused on practical steps one can take during and/or after incarceration to help ensure a more successful return to the community, including establishing evidence of rehabilitation; crafting a personal statement; and getting, understating, and correcting errors on one's RAP sheet.

Outreach

- Amy Discenza and Maren Kyle presented to a group of residents at Cloverwood Senior Living about digital library services for readers and enthusiasts of the arts. Discenza and Kyle sounded off on their favorite features of Libby, Hoopla, and Medici.tv, then demonstrated how to browse and borrow from each service.
- Discenza and Kyle facilitated a short story discussion at Lifespan's Wolk Café: a community gathering space that provides daily programming as well as breakfast and lunch for people ages 60+ in downtown Rochester. This month's story was "Open House on Haunted Hill" by John Wiswell.
- Discenza and Kyle chatted and shared library resources with individuals receiving outpatient chemical dependency services at URM Strong Recovery. Strong Recovery specializes in treating patients with opioid use disorders and patients with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Outreach staff assembled and delivered titles in a variety of formats for book discussion groups at Valley Manor Independent Living Apartments (City of Rochester); Ashley Woods (Penfield); and The Hawthorne at St. John's Meadows (Brighton).

Program Feedback: Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

"Library station services are truly a gift for the residents here at River Edge Manor. We have such an avid group of readers and they look forward to each new shipment of books. The large print books that Amy and her team send over are so important for the residents who can only read in that format. Most of our residents don't drive anymore as well, so this a great way for them to still have access to new books. It also gives a few of the residents a sense of purpose in terms of running the library. Such as making sure other residents are filling out the checkout sheet and making sure the books are returned in time for the next shipment to come in. The residents will leave notes on the library cart recommending a book they've read to other residents--it provides a real sense of community. We can't say enough about how great of a program this is."

– Anthony B., Episcopal SeniorLife Communities at River Edge Manor (City of Rochester)

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Cynthia Dana met with Jill Gibney from Pathstone who is interested in tabling at Central every week. Gibney is the Placement & Career Services Developer, and she works with people who have been judicially involved. They can assist with job hunting, including the correct wording to use in a resume, and they do referrals to other agencies. Gibney already has a relationship with our Outreach Department and has referred many clients to LROC. Pathstone is also able to pay for classes for those who are interested in a particular career path.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Flower Arranging on a Pumpkin--Another uplifting class with Kathleen Rullo from Jardin Terrariums. As always patrons enjoyed this class and created some wonderful seasonal arrangements. Some were whimsical and some more serious. Rullo always receives positive comments and this class was no exception.

"I enjoyed this class very much; the instructor is wonderful. I also enjoy the interaction between participants; we always encourage each other."

"It was great therapy. It was amazing how different each one of the pumpkins turned out. Please have more classes like this."

"There are great flower arranging books at the library. The presenter is the best, Kathleen is very patient, and her instructions are always very detailed."

- Anais Salibian's series of Zoom classes "Writing to Heal" concluded this month. One student said *"Anais is a wonderful teacher and inspires me to write and share with the group. She makes me feel safe to look at and write about topics her prompts evoke. I am very grateful for Anais and my feelings of trust and inspiration that I receive from her. I would take another course with her in a heartbeat! I also love that her course is on Zoom, otherwise, I would not be able to attend."* This reflected the feelings of all the students who commented when this class ended.
- Although the Zoom classes have been successful, students were just as positive about the return of in-person writing workshops after Gail Hosking taught a memoir writing class on a Saturday morning. One participant wrote *"I feel like we accomplished much in such a short time. Reading and discussing each reading is a great way to start getting the brain moving. I always enjoy hearing what others get out of readings and being encouraged to articulate my thoughts as well. Free writing can be intimidating, but the space felt safe and the prompts were great. Great crowd, great discussion, great facilitator. Thank you for the programming!"* Another said, *"The powerful energy of in-person class was beautiful and energizing."*
- Issue 12 of Rundelania, Art and Literature's digital literary journal, has had the most submissions of any issue thus far. The journal is now listed in the Poets and Writers online database of literary magazines and this has doubled the number of submissions and increased its reach. In addition to local authors, issue 12 has had some notable submissions, including, a story by American author Philip Kobylarz, who has published in the Paris Review, Poetry, and the Massachusetts Review.



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 4 in person, 16 by email, 0 by mail, 2 by phone, and 2 by Zoom.

Web Page Views: 31

Hours of in-depth market research: 52

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 3

Tracy Jong appointments: 2 hours, 4 people served

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: 27 Page Views; Value \$103,900

IBISWorld: 90 Page Views; Value \$31,215

InnovationQ: 7 Logins; 140 Searches

PitchBook: 23 Logins

Statista: 58 Visits; 21 Downloads

Programs

- Business First Wednesday: Financial Wellness for Your Business, Part 2 of 3, with Andrea Colline of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester. This month focused on managing personal expenses as a small business owner.
- Cannabis Industry Meet-Up: Hiram and Antonio Hernandez, owners and operators of Good Life Collective in Astoria, OR, discussed the ins and outs of operating a dispensary.
- Cannabis Workforce Development: BIC partnered with the City and the Workforce Development Institute to educate participants on what skills they will need to work in the cannabis industry. Elected officials present: Mayor Evans, Assemblyman Meeks, Senator Cooney, Councilman Gruber, and Councilman Patterson. We had a great turnout.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with Galin Brooks, the new director of Rochester Downtown Development Corporation. They discussed resources that can help identify businesses in the downtown area.
- Byrnes met with the Urban Libraries Council's Economic Opportunity Action Team and the American Library Association's Libraries Build Business team.
- Byrnes met with the Financial Empowerment Center team. BIC will have an on-site FEC counselor on the first Friday of each month from 9 am-5 pm.
- Byrnes was invited to teach a session of Monroe Community College's Entrepreneurship class. They discussed market research and intellectual property 101.
- Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh taught undergraduate students at the Bozzuto Center for Entrepreneurship at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. They discussed market research and intellectual property.
- Byrnes was a panelist for a financial wellness webinar hosted by the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester.
- Meddaugh attended the introductory phase of the Embark program at Nextcorps and networked with several teams regarding how our resources can help them.
- Melissa Cobo manned a table for BIC at the Lyell Avenue Business Association Networking & Town Hall Event.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Toddler Time in the Secret Room has a small group of regulars, and their skills are improving every session! One very enthusiastic 15-month-old who has joined us since the summer is now doing the hand movements for the itsy bitsy spider. His mom commented that it is amazing to see how much he learns and remembers week to week, which is why there is a lot of repetition in our sessions with young children.
- Children's Center Staff created themed book trucks for divisions to use for the Family Fall Festival. Participating divisions (Circulation, Media, Science, Art/Lit, Local History, Teen, and Children's) offered candy, treat bags with spider rings, stickers, bracelets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and of course candy was given out to families. The festival also included face painting and roving magic from Jim and Cindy Pelc of Just Clowning Around, Pumpkin Science from Powell, Spooky Slime by Elizabeth Hicks, make your own masks, and stories from Cathy Kyle.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Meeting diverse populations and expanding our presence in the community are priorities for the Children's Department. During October, we were able to participate in and host a variety of events that met the RPL Strategic goal of Education and Engagement, and the MCLS "Role of MCLS in the Community" strategic goal.
- Tonia Burton, Cathy Kyle, and Katie Powell attended the MCLS Children's Services meeting at Greece Library. Burton organized a Visiting Artist Showcase to assist member libraries with finding program presenters for the upcoming program year. This meets the MCLS strategic goal of improving system infrastructure and communication.
- Burton and Kyle attended the Center for Disability Rights Annual Trunk or Treat at Frontier Field along with staff from Irondequoit Library. Families had a great time checking out all the creative trunks and participating in accessible activities. The Central trunk theme was Toy Story. It was a chilly but fun evening!
- Burton joined Jasmine Santiago (Lincoln) at the El Camino Annual Fall Festival on a beautiful and warm fall Saturday at Conkey Park. Santiago created a fun Take & Make activity together with the help of other staff that each child could take in addition to books and bilingual Talking is Teaching tote bags.



- Burton met with Beth McLellan, Director of Educational and Clinical Services at Rochester Hearing and Speech to discuss collaborating on playdates directed towards children who are on the Early Intervention waiting list. There are hundreds of children waiting to receive speech, occupational, physical, and special education services due to a lack of providers and the system for paying providers. The goal is to offer playdates in libraries that are designed to show families how to incorporate supportive techniques into everyday play.

Raising A Reader

- Burton, Margarita Chaves, and Taylor Coonelly met with other children's librarians who will be offering support for RAR this year. This year's team includes Mark Hafer (Maplewood), Jennifer Nesbitt (Douglass), Alex Hahen (Wheatley), Jasmine Santiago (Lincoln), and Kim Whittemore (Sully). The team received training and then worked on planning site visits and a Winter Wonderland Family event that will be held for families in January.
- The RAR team completed outreach at VOA. The team attended VOA's open house and created a story walk for families to engage in reading with their children. The focus was on Asking Good Questions. RAR information was also shared with families. Chaves has also started weekly outreach for Ibero this month. She is working with new teachers on how to rotate bags and continue reading books from the RAR bags. Coonelly has also started RAR outreach at our Friendship site and is also supporting staff and families with bag rotations. Coonelly also met with ABC Home Visiting families to share about RAR and how she can better support them.



Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 5

New Borrowers - 431

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 4

Notarial Acts - 93

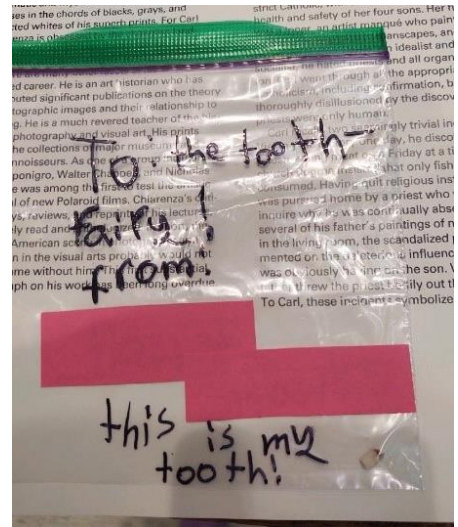
Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Chad Cunningham, Eve Brewer, and Emma Reynolds attended the annual Halloween at the Public Market event. They handed out candy, bookmarks, pencils, and stickers to thousands of happy children. Spider-Man was by far the most popular costume, but there were a wide variety of different characters on parade. Candy Corn bookmarks proved the most popular bookmark. It was a fun event!

Anecdotes/Other

- Cunningham and Cynthia Dana had a super fun dance party with a three-year-old patron! The young lady in question was waiting while her mother checked out some items at the circulation desk. Dana asked her if she wanted to sing. She said no. Dana then asked her if she wanted to dance. She wasn't sure about the dancing, but Dana started dancing. And then Cunningham walked by and joined in. The girl started moving and then really got into the dancing. All three had a lot of fun and decided that they were all dancing superstars!

- One of the most interesting parts of working in Circulation Services is finding random items that patrons leave in books. People leave all sorts of things in books. Things like bookmarks, lottery tickets, postcards, money, and now...teeth. Melissa Miranda was returning an item and opened it to find a tooth in a plastic bag. There was a note on the bag addressed to the tooth fairy. Apparently, the tooth fairy, once retrieving the tooth and leaving the traditional monetary gift, decided to use the tooth in a bag as a bookmark. Eve Brewer phoned the tooth fairy in question and left a message regarding the wandering tooth. While waiting for a response, staff did what one should always do with someone's lost property- they put it in the Lost and Found drawer at the desk. The tooth fairy phoned back and told staff that the tooth in question could be disposed of. And so, the tooth's journey continues...



Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The October installment of Mourning in the Morning, presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, featured a talk by Dennis Carr on “History in Plain Sight: Architects, Architecture, and Mount Hope Cemetery.” The program was held via Zoom; a recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/0aZvG ai-Ts>.
- This month's Rochester's Rich History featured a talk by Justin Murphy on “The History of Residential and School Segregation in Rochester.” Murphy's presentation was based on his recently published book, *Your Children Are Very Greatly in Danger: School Segregation in Rochester, New York*. Murphy conducted much of the research for his book using resources in the Local History & Genealogy Division. The program was held in person in Kusler-Cox Auditorium and was simultaneously streamed via Zoom.
- This month's genealogy program, Heritage Tales, featured a presentation by Cheryl Sampson, who spoke about tracing her lineage over eight generations and shared her expertise on researching African American family histories and using business directories to find ancestors. The program was held in person in the division.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Finn hosted a group of homeschoolers (grades 2-5) and their adult chaperones this month. She gave the group a tour of the Rundel Terrace and gathered feedback that will help inform ideas for an Augmented Reality experience that the library hopes to develop for that space. The group also spent time in the division, using the Plat maps and city directories to learn more about the history of their neighborhoods.
- Christine Ridarsky presented a talk on “Repairing the Historical Record through Community Collaboration” at the annual conference of the Government Appointed Historians of Western New York in East Aurora, NY.
- Ridarsky met with Brian Liberti, the City's Director of Building & Park, and staff from Mt. Hope Cemetery to advise on conservation, preservation, and digitization needs for records stored in the cemetery offices.
- The library was recognized as a community partner at the ImageOut 2022 LGBTQ Film & Video Festival. Ridarsky gave a brief overview and history of Shoulders to Stand On and the library's LGBTQIA+ archival collections and programs before a screening of Happy Together at the Dryden Theatre on the Archive Night of the festival.
- Ridarsky, Antoine McDonald, and Leah Green met with Stephanie Ball and Joan Coles Howard to plan for the

upcoming Howard W. Coles birthday celebration, which the library is hosting in November. Coles was a prominent local activist, publisher, author, historian, and radio personality in the mid-20th century who dedicated over forty years to championing equal rights and improving conditions for Black Rochesterians in the community.

- As Editor and Assistant Editor of the Rochester History journal, respectively, Ridarsky and Morry hosted an editorial board meeting via Zoom, which Finn, a member of this board, also attended. The meeting opened with introductions and a formal orientation for nine new board members and closed with a discussion of three submissions: “Herman Dossenbach’s Year in Europe, 1911-1912,” “A Family Quarrel” (about the location of the Eastman School of Music), and “District Steam Heating in Rochester.”

Archive of Black History & Culture

McDonald has been leading a committee of library staff and community advisors in interviewing candidates for the 10 paid community curator positions that will constitute the Community Advisory Board tasked with setting a mission, vision, and strategic plan for the Archive of Black History & Culture. The deadline for filling the positions has been extended until November 11 to allow the committee time to interview as diverse a pool of qualified applicants as possible. The final list of selected candidates will be submitted to the RPL Board of Trustees for approval. The RPL Board is also working on a policy and procedure to govern paid community advisory boards.

Digital Projects

Representatives from FamilySearch began their scanning project at the Rochester Public Library this month. Two volunteers will be on-site scanning materials from the library’s collection relevant to FamilySearch’s genealogical work. The first items to be scanned include city and suburban directories and yearbooks. As agreed with the RPL Board. Local History & Genealogy Division staff will update the board monthly on which items have been scanned (see below) and will seek preapproval from the RPL board before beginning to digitize different types of material. The FamilySearch team is off to a strong start, scanning 14 items in just a few days on the project.

Materials scanned by FamilySearch, October 2022:

Title	Volume	Author	Pages	Call no	Publisher and place	Publication date
The Witan	1943	Charlotte High School	68	Rr373r676c 1943	Wm. J.Keller Co, Buffalo, NY	1943
The Witan	1944	Charlotte High School	68	Rqr373r676c 1944	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1944
The Witan	1945	Charlotte High School	66	Rr373r676c 1945	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1945
The Witan	1946	Charlotte High School	64	Rrq373 R676c 1946	Leahy Printer, Rochester, NY	1946
The Witan	1947	Charlotte High School	64	Rr373R676c 19477	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1947
The Witan	1948	Charlotte High School	64	Rr373R676c 1948	Progress Publishing Assoc. Inc Albany, NY	1948
The Witan	1949	Charlotte High School	64	Rr373R673 1949	Progress Publishing Assoc. Inc Albany, NY	1949

Title	Volume	Author	Pages	Call no	Publisher and place	Publication date
The Witan	1950	Charlotte High School	68	Rr373R676c 1950	Progress Publishing Assoc. Inc Albany, NY	1950
The Witan	1951	Charlotte High School	64	Rqr373r676c 1951	Meyers and Co. Inc., Topeka, Kansas	1951
The Witan	June. 1952	Charlotte High School	64	Rrq373r676c	Progress Publishing Assoc. Inc Albany, NY	1952
The Witan	1953	Charlotte High School	76	Rqr373r676c 1953	Progress Publishing Assoc. Inc Albany, NY	1953
The Witan	1954	Charlotte High School	72	Rqr373r676c 1954	Progress Publishing Assoc. Inc Albany, NY	1954
The Witan	1955	Charlotte High School	88	Rrq373r676c 1955	Progress Publishing Assoc. Inc Albany, NY	1955
Winans family genealogy/compiled by Alice Winans Egy Woolley.		Woolley, Alice Winans Egy	559	929.2097 w758w	A.W.E. Woolley, Sacramento, Calif.	1987?

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

RMC rented 11 pieces of equipment and 256 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection for a total of 3,937 items or 35% of the Central Library's total circulation of 11,3321 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog, and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC totaled 8,199 circulations.

Programs

- First Friday Films presented the film *Where the Crawdads Sing*.
- See It First Saturday Matinee showed the film *Thor: Love & Thunder*.
- RMC held a special Zoom book discussion about the Rochester Reads book *Hell of a Book* by Jason Mott.
- Brown Bag Book Discussion of *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian (in-person)
- Brown Bag Book Discussion of *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian (via Zoom)
- The popular Concert in the Garden series continued with: Fatima and Zimbabwean Music.
- RMC performed 31 A/V setups for programs in Central Library including 4 setups for Staff Day.
- RMC also streamed 2 programs directly to our YouTube Channel.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Diane Premo reviewed the book *In Memory of Memory* by Maria Sepanova for Audiophile Magazine.
Robert Scheffel participated in the Literacy Rochester Brain Games on the WINNING team.

Anecdotes/Other

- RMC was recently asked about the availability of a documentary produced by WXXI in 2016 (Tailor Made: The Story of Rochester's Garment Industry) by a gentleman in Japan. We have a DVD copy in our collection and Alicia Gunther copied the video to our YouTube channel for the patron to access in Japan. After viewing the film, he sent an email thanking us, he wrote: *"Hi, I am born and raised in Rochester and left for college, during the pandemic was back for a year. My grandma was also a seamstress at Hickey Freeman and that is why my family settled in Rochester. This year I visited the factory store and the workers. I was curious about the stories of the immigrants and their legacy. Thank you so much for sending this to me, sorry if it was a bit much!"*
- A young man came into the Media Division and said he'd been told that we loaned out portable wi-fi devices. He said a friend had told him. He asked how much it cost, and I told him it was free with his library card. *"That's crazy,"* he said. *"I just moved from Tennessee and the libraries there had nothing like that—only books."* He said he needed it so he could do schoolwork at home. I pointed him to the Tech Center and told him he could also use the computers there for school. *"WHAT?!"* He shouted. He staggered backward, dramatically. *"This is so amazing."* *"AND we have books too,"* I added.
- Bob Scheffel, who is currently heading up the Rare Books Team, was recently interviewed about the "treasures" held at the Central Library. <https://www.wxxinews.org/local-news/2022-10-31/rochester-librarians-are-finding-rare-treasures-in-their-downtown-collection>

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Cemetery Reflections, presented by Jane Hopkins, was an in-person program presented in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. Hopkins photographed gravestones and statuaries from over 200 cemeteries in the eastern U.S. and Canada and paired the pictures with memorable poetry and prose.
- The Got Health? online video series, presented by and in partnership with the Center for Community Health and Prevention at the University of Rochester Medical Center, continued with Tobacco Effects on Lung Health and was well attended. Viewing numbers were high through Facebook.
- 1932 Election was an in-person program in the Kate Gleason Auditorium, presented by Mark Sample, MCC history professor. The program discussed the election between Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as the country turned from the Great Depression to FDR's proposed New Deal. Approximately 14 people attended, and everyone was engaged throughout the program.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Pellegrino attended the monthly meeting of the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). The group is hoping to have Melanie Lewis from Branch Administration attend a future meeting so that more library programs in branches can be coordinated. Also discussed were health fairs, senior residences, community programs, houses of worship, accessibility logo cards (to let people know about loop systems present), connection to GRAPE (Greater Rochester Area Partnership for the Elderly); distribution of PR materials, and over-the-counter hearing devices.
- Pellegrino also attended the quarterly HLAA Professional Advisory Team Committee Meeting on Zoom, in which each advisor/liaison discussed what each of us can offer to support the hearing loss community and how we can further promote the work of HLAA Rochester. A lively discussion also ensued from parent liaisons who have students with hearing loss and partnerships therein.
- LROC visitor LawNY has completed its training of new people and has resumed its Friday presence in the Science Division, offering legal assistance and referrals to visitors. Regular LROC numbers are down a bit this

month, due in part to some cancellations. Legal assistance is picking up, and staff making announcements is always effective for promoting LROC each day.

Anecdotes/Other

Civil Service materials are very popular as many tests have resumed. Renee Kendrot will continue to analyze this collection to purchase print and online test preparation materials to enhance this popular collection. The publisher (National Learning Corporation) is offering a 30% discount through November for the National Learning Corporation Test Preparation Books. Kendrot is planning to replace some of the older books along with purchasing books for upcoming civil service exams. Kendrot also ordered several copies of test preparation materials for the GED, ATI TEAS 7, and the Firefighter's Exams.



Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Anecdotes/Other

- The Technology Center's name has formally changed to the John Lovenheim Center for Technology and Innovation. The generous gift accompanying this change is greatly appreciated. The opportunities for our patrons that this gift will make possible are exciting.
- There have been some significant personnel changes in the Technology Center in October. Jeanne Slocombe brought her long career in the Monroe County Library System to a close at the end of the month. She has worked at Central, in the branches, and MCLS member libraries. She worked in other fields and other states. The Technology Center staff benefited from her wide range of experience and all learned a good deal from the way she worked with patrons. Her absence will be felt for a long time. Ryan Kovar will also be leaving Central for the University of Rochester. Ryan's technical expertise made him a very important part of our team. The Technology Center team wishes them both well as they begin new chapters in their lives.
- Nunez has been moved to a temporary full-time position in the Technology Center. The need for full-time Spanish-speaking staff in this unit has been apparent for some time. Nunez's additional hours will be of great help to many of our patrons at Central. He will also be using this additional time to create programming opportunities for the Technology Center. One of this department's goals has been to provide programming in venues other than Central and the branches. Nunez has connections at the Ibero-American Action League and the possibility of collaborating with that organization is very interesting, to say the least. He has also been working on plans to partner with personnel from Rochester to create programs here at Central.
- Several months ago, the Technology Center received a Digital Equity Booth through the Rochester Regional Library Council. These booths (think jumbo-sized phone booths) are designed to provide patrons with a private space to do things like make phone calls, attend video job interviews and have remote medical consultations. Over a year ago the Technology Center made phone calls possible through Google's VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) app, GoogleVoice. Even before the provision of this private booth, this service was popular enough for Google to temporarily block our access to GoogleVoice until they could determine that we were not using the service to run a phishing operation. Patrons have used this service for everything from finding apartments to finding jobs. We have had dozens of calls made in a single day as patrons without access to a phone capitalize on this service. The privacy offered by the digital equity booth has made this phone service even more popular. Patrons also use this space to make Facebook Messenger calls in privacy. The popularity of this service suggests that we will outgrow the limits of GoogleVoice and an alternate VOIP service will be looked for in the coming month.

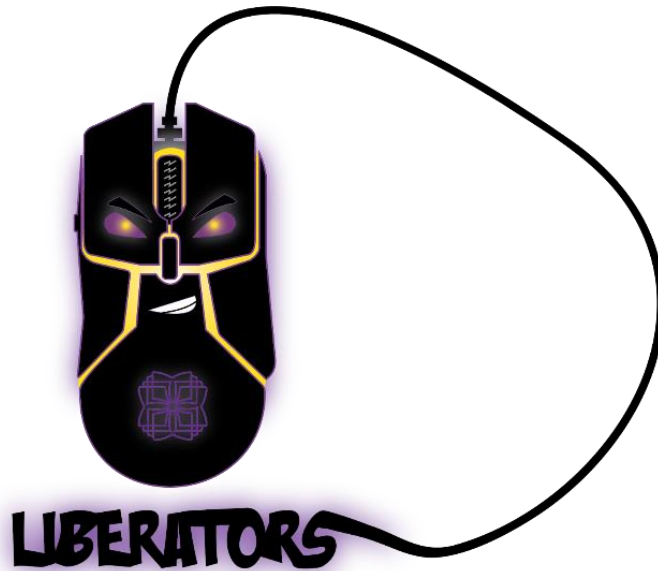
- The staff of the Technology Center would like to express appreciation for the assistance it has received from the FFRPL (Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library) this past month. Over a year ago, the Technology Center began providing headsets for every public computer. After trying several types of headsets, 30 sets of school-media-center-style headphones were lent to the Technology Center. Access to headsets has been very popular and has contributed to the return of the Technology Center's computer usage to pre-COVID rates. At any point in time, 75-80% of Technology Center patrons are using these headphones. This equates to over 1,500 hours of headphone use per month. In October FFRPL upgraded this service by purchasing 28 better-quality headsets. The patrons' response to the upgrade has been very positive and the original headsets will be returned to the lender.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Girls Who Code: We had a few more teens and tweens registered for the Girls Who Code program. We now have a volunteer facilitating the virtual session. The Girls Who Code organization arranged a pairing for facilitators' assistance and Sandra was more than happy to join our team.
- Teens Craft and Connect: We continue to stretch the imagination with bead creativity.
- E-sports – The Central Library e-sports team participated in weekly meetings this month. The team secretary bought pizza for everyone. They have streamed at least once per week and now have 38 followers on twitch. The team logo is completed and the team's "Why We Play" video for the NASEF has been completed. [CLL Why We Play.mp4](#)





- Music Studio – The music studio is being used to record a charity holiday album this month. The proceeds will go to homeless youth, in particular LGBTQIA+ youth, who suffer from homelessness at a much higher rate than other youth groups.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- The Warner School of Education hosted its end-of-year reception here in Teen Central. The program was comprised of students in grades six through eight, whose project was trees. They reported on the importance of tree maintenance, and statistics of tree removal and replanting. City and county officials spoke of Monroe County's forestry efforts and career opportunities. The accompanying tree-themed book display was well appreciated.



MCLS Director's Report – November 2022 (Continued)

- George Mather Forbes School No. 4 came for a tour of the library. The whole class was prepared to sign up for library cards. The circulation staff was awesome in checking for old accounts, updating information, and issuing some students their first-ever library cards. The youth enjoyed using the Teen Space and ImagineYou lab so much that their teacher is planning a return visit next semester. We finished our time together with lunch from the Foodlink Café compliments of Derrick Coley.