



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: January 23, 2023
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–January 2023

Action Items

MCLS-RPL Service Agreement (Smathers)

The agreement between MCLS and the Rochester Public Library that outlines the services to be provided by RPL to MCLS and its members expired on December 31, 2022. Typically, this has been a 3-year agreement; in 2021 we recommended shifting temporarily to a 1-year agreement due to re-negotiation of the MCLS Document of Understanding. We are now recommending a 2-year agreement to expire on December 31, 2024, to return to a three-year agreement cycle. This agreement specifies the primary system and support services to be provided by the RPL to the MCLS members. It provides the same flexibility as previous agreements between the MCLS and the RPL and maintains the ability to increase operational support for system services. A copy of the agreement is included in this packet.

Board Action Requested: Approve an MCLS-RPL Services Agreement for the period January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Library Automation Services Update

LAS continues to support peer member libraries, with the addition of Mendon as a new peer in 2022. Peers are the smaller libraries in the system that do not have in-house IT staff. LAS provides installation and upgrade services as well as troubleshooting and repairs. The Mendon Library, under its previous director, was not a peer library. Under its new director, LAS has provided some significant work, including a revamp of the data center and local area network under the direction of Brenda LaCrosse.

LAS also assisted several members in the review of service solicitations for network support. This included reviewing RFP/Q documents that members were readying for release. Brenda provided feedback on the documents which will ultimately save some members money.

Finally, LAS and Finance will be going out to bid this month for multi-year contracts for internet and digital transmission services through the Federal E-rate program. A major upgrade to storage is under evaluation for the best solution and will be a future Board action for services.

Collection Diversity Discussion

In December, the board received a report on the work being done in MCLS member libraries on the diversification of collections to reflect community needs and experiences. Nine member libraries and the MCLS

Office responded to my initial request for information; the libraries that did not respond have been asked again to provide information. The report will be updated as that information comes in.

At the November board meeting, Trustees Smith and Brandt agreed to work on the development of a statement regarding the board's philosophical position on diverse collections within the system. Discussion on this topic will begin at the January board meeting, eventually leading to a formal board resolution on the topic. **Trustees Smith and Brandt request that the MCLS Board President appoint an ad hoc committee to work on the development of this resolution.**

One option for the board to consider is officially supporting and signing on to the "Unite Against Book Bans" website, which can be viewed at <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>. The Rochester Public Library has signed on as a partner in this work. The UABB statement is included with this packet and can be used as a discussion starter. I recommend you spend some time reviewing the website before the board meeting.

Trustee Training Reminder

The new state requirement for annual training for library trustees took effect January 1 which requires 2 hours of training annually for every person serving as an appointed library trustee in NYS. (Education Law 260-d added by Chapter 468 of the Laws of 2021).

According to the New York State Education Department Division of Library Development:

Public library trustees in New York State oversee an estimated \$1.6 billion of the public's money—a responsibility that must be undertaken by informed, thoughtful, prudent, and trustworthy library boards. Requiring trustee education will foster an understanding of complex governance processes so that this responsibility is met.

Furthermore, to provide effective oversight, board members must appreciate their mandated duties and responsibilities. An effective way of providing this appreciation is to offer the training necessary to be good financial stewards.

The Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State states that "trustees must learn and grow during their entire tenure on the board, developing an ever-deepening awareness of the affairs of their own library and an appreciation and understanding of other libraries and library organizations. The public library is a multifaceted organization functioning in a complex world."

Per Education Law, trustee education topics may include financial oversight, accountability, fiduciary responsibilities, and the general powers and duties of a library trustee.

As 2023 progresses, the MCLS Office will offer a variety of opportunities for training. Debi Mansour will keep track of the training for each trustee on the MCLS and RPL Boards, so please make sure to let her know when you complete any training.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Chili Public Library

Girl Scout Bronwyn Lucyszyn presented the library with the book she created called *The Pandemic: Chili's Story*. The book is a series of interviews and personal accounts from residents and businesses in Chili, describing the effect of the year 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. She spent over 100 hours creating the book and will earn a Gold Award—the highest award in Girl Scouting. The award is earned by developing and carrying out lasting solutions to issues in their neighborhoods and beyond. Come and look at the book currently held at the library's information desk. The book is in the process of being cataloged and will become part of the library's permanent local history collection. Congratulations Bronwyn!

Fairport Public Library

A patron commented about the Veteran's Day storytime, "The children's 10 am story time was great! There were many babies, children, and parents having fun." A virtual version of the Veterans Day Storytime with Miss Lauren's dad, Mr. Frank, an Air Force veteran is available online:

[#VeteransDay](#) [#FairportLibrary](#) [#FPLkids](#)

<https://fb.watch/hRJVgwnWab/>



Hamlin Public Library

Special thanks to Katrina Tinkous and her parents, Irina and Bob, for sharing their Ukrainian Christmas traditions with our homeschool group! A patron commented, "Thank you so much for this experience! I know our family enjoyed it!"



Irondequoit Public Library

It's easier than ever to search for library materials with our newly accessible catalog stands! Raise or lower the adjustable arm to position the screen at a height that works for you. Look for them in the first-floor atrium and the Teen Library, with more on the way!

Wendy Mills, of Spectrum News 1 Rochester, stopped by the library to talk with us about Local Author Day.

https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/community/2022/12/13/you-can-meet-40-rochester-area-authors-saturday-at-irondequoit-public-library?fbclid=IwAR066IJGJmZC8-5Jx4uTHJ_6MV2LAhSKwLiO7H6mRQUBbJJIZI01RKv3G4

Mendon Public Library

In December patrons got their craft on with beautiful alcohol ink ornaments. Then, Mama Goose on the Loose stopped by to lead us in some fun holiday-themed songs and games. Finally, we had Sweet & Cute Sweets show our teen patrons how to make fudge. It was delicious!

Parma Public Library

The library hosted Santa and Mrs. Claus for Hilton Parma Recreation's Holiday on Main. A special thank you to all 750 people who visited us for that event!

Pittsford Community Library

We now have our very own PCL Book Bike! A TREMENDOUS thanks go out to the Friends of the Pittsford Community Library for their continuous, tireless support and for backing creative outreach projects like this one. Expect to see the PCL team—and our new ride!—out and about in Pittsford even more in 2023! (Once it thaws out, that is!)

Seymour Library

Congratulations to the winners of the 5x7xDesign Teen Art Contest! More than 200 artists entered their artwork for this year's event. The artwork will be on display near the entrance to the library until the end of January. Thank you to the Friends of BML for sponsoring the event.

Webster Public Library

The library staff picture posted to Facebook garnered a lot of positive comments and one inquiry regarding the identification of a reindeer. Patrons said, "Thanks for all you do. The library is one of my happy places" and "Great staff....great library!!! Thank you to all!!!"



MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Events & Meetings

- Passports for the MCLS Passport event continue to go out to member libraries. So far the MCLS office has received notification that 5 people have been to all member library locations, filling out their passports.
- Gunther assisted Seymour Librarian Patrick Pittman at an outreach event at SUNY College at Brockport. The Seymour Library staff are working with Student Experience staff to collaborate on different projects and provide more opportunities to connect with students.
- Gunther and other MCLS member staff held an MCLS library table at the 2022 Rochester Maker Fair. Staff brought a variety of information about MCLS services and resources, as well as STEAM technologies that patrons can use in the library as well as check out with their library card. The roll-out piano from the MCLS Mobile Maker Space and the Cubelets from the Children's Center was extremely popular. It is estimated that MCLS staff connected with over 3,000 people during the two-day event.
- Gunther and Jennifer Smathers hosted an MCLS table at Amerks hockey games to promote the Reading Power Play and related Library materials, and kids were offered Hat Trick Reading Challenge entry forms. At each game, attendees checked out materials from the table and two people signed up for Library cards.

Throughout December Gunther worked with Mary Royce in LAS updating the 2023 Budget Kit forms based on feedback received from the MCLS Directors Council.

Social Media

November 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	432	387	276	0	2	17	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	0 (2,088)	0 (2,218)	20 (5,877)	-	15	17 (2,298)	14 (439)
Engagements	19	78	1,552	54	41	274	61
Check-In/ Mentions	33	11	-	-	-	274	-
Post Reach	1,137	2,810	3,745	436	-	3,934	15,629
Video/Story Views	-	-	243	-	-	78	1,357

MCLS Director's Report – January 2023 (Continued)

December 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	582	427	335	2	0	14	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	0 (2,088)	0 (2,218)	26 (5,942)	-	13	12 (2,310)	6 (447)
Engagements	47	57	1,666	23	87	155	26
Check-In/ Mentions	7	7	-	-	-	6	-
Post Reach	1,873	3,246	7,003	307	-	3,105	18,537
Video/Story Views	-	-	528	-	-	232	893

OverDrive November

- Total Checkouts- 153,105
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 1,675
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 13,751
- SORA Checkouts- 1,730
- Great Courses- 199

Catalog Statistics

November/December

New Titles added to CARL

Total = 4833

Towns = 3537

RPL = 1296

(Central = 651)

(Branches = 674)

No Hit Email Requests

Total = 4809

Towns = 4039

RPL = 770

(Central = 39)

(Branches = 731)

Other Catalog & Collections Services statistics of interest:

Edits to title records: 283

Deletes from database: 4481

Books produced: 797

Books processed: 312

Periodical changes: 16

Media produced: 198

Anecdotes/Other

- The Visual Studies Workshop published two new *In This Moment* chapbooks near the end of December. The first chapbook is about Timothy James Johnson Ph.D., Volunteer Minister at Asbury First United Methodist Church and a Professor Emeritus of Roberts Wesleyan College, with an essay by Miriam Zinter and photographs by Rashaad Parker. The second is about Reenah Golden, Founder, Executive & Artistic Director of the Avenue Blackbox Theatre, with an essay by Luticha Doucette and photographs by Granville Carroll. Lenio coordinated the receipt of many boxes of the new chapbooks from VSW and disseminated copies to interested MCLS libraries. RPL contributed financially to the production of this important publishing effort, signaling a shift from strictly collecting materials to creating materials of local interest and importance.
- Catalog, Equity & Inclusivity (CEI) project update: Lee Cooney finished reviewing the Backstage headings lists for the main indigenous groups. Dee Mrak and Cooney will be reviewing the LGBTQ+ headings/thesaurus list. Margaret Paige reported on her research looking at existing subject headings in CARL for African Americans and Blacks. Paige pointed out some questions, concerns, and situations that the committee will need to consider before we can create a sample list of headings of African American terms that we can have the affinity groups give their feedback on.
- Mrak cataloged four rare maps depicting Indigenous People's sites, trails, and history in this region and provided access to the maps in the public catalog. The digitized maps were a part of Local History's Native American Heritage Month program on November 19th. Interested patrons can click on the links in the public catalog to view and explore the detailed maps.

Map of the Migration Route of the Cayugas

[Monroe County Library System - CARL•Connect Discovery - Map of the migration route of the Cayugas / Follett, Harrison C \(libraryweb.org\)](#)

Map of the Migration Routes of the Senecas and Cayugas

[Monroe County Library System - CARL•Connect Discovery - Map of the migration routes of the Senecas and Cayugas / Follett, Harrison C \(libraryweb.org\)](#)

Map of Monroe County, New York, Exhibiting Known Aboriginal Village Camp Sites and Trails

[Monroe County Library System - CARL•Connect Discovery - Map of Monroe County, New York, exhibiting known aboriginal village camp sites and trails / Follett, Harrison C \(libraryweb.org\)](#)

Indian Trails about Rochester, as Described by George H. Harris

[Monroe County Library System - CARL•Connect Discovery - Indian trails about Rochester, as described by George H. Harris \(libraryweb.org\)](#)

Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 36 in-home patrons, added 2 new patrons and made 1 technology support visit.

In-Home Materials Distribution:

- Home Deliveries: 32 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)

- Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: 6 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (each cartridge included 15-25 titles selected and downloaded by Outreach staff)
- Outreach staff mailed out 3 reference packets to in-home patrons.

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 24 library stations—fulfilling special requests for 16 sites. Two new sites were added to the program.

Corrections and Reentry Support

- Wes Becker gave a presentation about reentry resources for justice-involved persons at the Arnett 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, understanding, and correcting errors on one's RAP sheet.
- The Outreach Department partnered with the Center for Community Alternatives, Judicial Process Commission, and Legal Assistance of Western NY to present the first workshop in a four-part Community-Based Legal Education Series, Know Your Rights: Applying for a Job with an Arrest and Conviction Record. These workshops are intended to help justice-involved people overcome barriers to well-being and success created by an arrest and conviction record. Know Your Rights helped attendees understand the types of conviction records NYS keeps and how to access them; what employers can legally ask about and see regarding conviction records; what kind of help/legal relief may be available and how to apply (e.g., record sealing and certificates of rehabilitation); how and when to request a conviction record for personal review; and how to obtain professional assistance to correct errors.
- Good news: Jim Smith, the Executive Director of Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach, contacted the department to thank Outreach staff—specifically Wes Becker-- for their work compiling reentry resources (Making Moves). Here is an excerpt: "We have a wonderful resident who found his way to us through the information you provide. He is at Nielsen House and loving it. We are grateful he found us. Thank you for the great work you do!"

Outreach

- Amy Discenza and Maren Kyle spoke to a group of residents at the House of Mercy about essential library programs and services. In their presentation, Discenza and Kyle discussed how to get a library card when you're living in transitional housing; 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; noted valuable library partnerships and collaborations such as LROC, the Empire Justice CASH program, and the Foodlink Community Cafe; and, of course, spoke about the many ways one can use the library to save some money and have a little fun.
- Amy Discenza and Maren Kyle led a lively discussion about 21st Century library services for older adults at St. Bernard's Apartments. In their presentation, Discenza and Kyle highlighted library collections and services for older adults, gave an overview of online resources one can access from home, and discussed the many ways one can use the library to save some money and have a little fun. St. Bernard's Park, located in the City of Rochester, was built in 1892 as a seminary. It has since been converted into 55+ housing.
- Amy Discenza and Maren Kyle facilitated short story discussions 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 November's story was "Mrs. Perez" by Oscar Cesares. December's story was "The Usual Santas" by Mick Herron.

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting

Anecdotes/Other

- Dana has spent a lot of time in the Tech Center due to staffing issues. This area sees most of the patrons who enter through the front doors. Recently, PCHO (Person Centered Housing Options), part of LROC decided to set up in the Tech Center to reach more people who could use their help. Dana witnessed a staff member from PCHO kneeling next to a young man who was using a computer. Ron Freitag indicated that he had asked them to help this person as he was in rough shape and had just started visiting the library to get some help. This is just a typical day for Tech Center staff who find themselves getting to know way more about patrons than they ever expected. They are making a difference in lives every day and the regulars there have formed a sort of community.
- Dana was in Rundel when she noticed two patrons, one an elderly man, looking rather lost so she approached them. They were a father and daughter in search of Flo Morris. Turns out Flo has been communicating with this patron and has been very helpful in finding materials that interest him. They came to meet her and to see the current display in the division. Morris always goes above and beyond for her patrons.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Be Thankful Painting Sign—Patrons enjoyed this class taught by artist Ola Kraszpuska. Patrons were provided with small wooden pallets on which to paint their message of "welcome" or "thankful" and were shown how to add decorative leaves. We had a few new patrons in this class, and that is always good to see. Student comments were all positive, one commented, "this was a creative project and easy to do and I learned to mix colors." "I liked the enthusiasm of the teacher and the class, and she was very patient." "Keep the great classes coming."
- The monthly writer's support group "Words in Progress" lost a beloved member, Jerry B., in November. The group has formed a real community and shared the news of Jerry's sudden passing before the December meeting. While the group membership changes from one five-month session to the next, everyone is supportive of one another, and as one said "To the long-timers of this group, you have a special place in my life. Every one of you, as well as the newer members..."



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics – November/December

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 10 in person, 36 by email, 6 by phone, and 1 by Zoom.

Web Page Views: 68

Hours of in-depth market research: 90

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 7

3D Printer: 2

Tracy Jong appointments: 6 hours, 8 people served in November, and 4 appointments in December.

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: 32 Page Views; Value \$117,800

IBISWorld: 397 Page Views; Value \$132,565

InnovationQ: 14 Logins; 183 Searches

PitchBook: 26 Logins

Statista: 91 Visits; 37 Downloads

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with [Yasmine Kotturi](#), a Ph.D. of Human-Computer Interaction at Carnegie-Mellon University, to discuss how apps may help small business owners. She also attended a meeting with Empire State Development to learn about new NYS small business funding opportunities. A meeting with the Financial Empowerment Center finalized plans for them to begin seeing clients in our new meeting rooms starting in January. Byrnes met with Kelly Brown Lonis of Monroe Community College's Workforce Development department to discuss how BIC may help them with their initiatives.
- Byrnes presented on working with cannabis businesses to the American Library Association's (ALA) Libraries Build Business (LBB) group. LBB is a national initiative of the ALA, supported by Google.org, intended to build capacity in libraries offering programming or services to local entrepreneurs and the small business community, prioritizing low-income and underrepresented entrepreneurs.
- Byrnes and Meddaugh met with Deanna Kocher, Assistant Director at Rev Ithaca Startup Works, an accelerator/incubator affiliated with Cornell University. BIC will be working with their hardware and manufacturing businesses. Byrnes met with the team of the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator, an affiliate of Binghamton University, to discuss how BIC can serve its companies. She also met with Ervin Starr, a business professor at Roberts Wesleyan College, to discuss presenting to his students. Meddaugh attended Rochester Open Coffee Club's monthly meeting to network and discuss the resources of the Business Insight Center and the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property.

Anecdotes/Other

Byrnes attended the Upstate Capital Deal of the Year awards celebration at the Strong Museum. An attendee from Skull Diamond and Heart Capital said talking with her and learning about BIC's services alone was worth the \$700 annual membership fee.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Burton joined the Month of the Young Child Committee. The committee had its first meeting to begin planning events for the April celebration of young children throughout the early childhood community.

- Kelly Conlon and Mary Brzustowicz presented Serving Patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder training to MCLS Children's Services staff at the November meeting at Arnett Library. Providing this training helps us meet the unique needs of our community by offering experiences that represent our diverse populations, which meets Strategic Priority # 1.



Programs

- Children's hosted a special program for schools. Award-winning author Kekla Magoon visited with seven classes from Rochester City School District on zoom and four classes in person from Renaissance Academy. Magoon shared her writing process and the evolution of her book *Season of Styx Malone*, and answered questions from the students. The students had some great questions including, "Do you have one place you write?" "How long does it take to organize all your sticky notes into a story?" "How many revisions do you have to do for each book?" One question stuck with the author, so she asked Burton about it later. It was "Can you write a book about a character with depression?"



Raising A Reader

- This year Children's staff members continue to provide services to ABC Home Visiting Program, ABC Hart Street, Ibero, and VOA. They have added Generations Clinton Crossing, Generations Clinton, and Friendship Children's Center. They are servicing a total of 755 families this year. Most of the children are under the age of 3. Once children are old enough for universal PreK, the Rochester City School District provides centers with books, and they utilize 1000 Books Before Kindergarten tracking sheets.
- Children's staff members focused on the literacy skill of "Asking Good Questions" for the parents at Ibero. Families were able to follow along a story walk based on the book *City Shapes* and then they were given a take-and-make bag with items to create their own city shape skyline. The other sites received the same activity but based on the story *Leaf Man* for families.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments-7

New Borrowers-300

RRLC Access Cards Issued-20

Notarial Acts-386

Anecdotes/Other

- A mysterious envelope appeared in the mail at the Central Library. The envelope was addressed to the library, the Hyatt, and Seabreeze. Inside were two money orders: one for fifty cents and one for two cents. One of the money orders was made out to Tom Brady. One was not made out to anyone. Whoever purchased the money orders had written cryptic and illegible notes on the money orders. The return

address on the envelope listed a name, Apt 800, and Rochester, New York. John Washington from Finance brought the mysterious envelope to Chad Cunningham, hoping that the information on the envelope could be used to identify a library patron. While Cunningham used all his circulation detective skills, he was unable to identify who had sent the money orders. For now, the envelope is in the Circulation Services safe.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

The Local History & Genealogy Division made noteworthy progress on two exciting community projects in the final months of 2022.

First, staff completed an extensive recruitment and selection process that resulted in a recommendation that the following 10 people be appointed by the RPL board to a community advisory board that will guide the development of our planned community-curated Archive of Black History & Culture: Carolyne S. Blount, Mauricio Marc Coombs, Calvin Eaton, Xavier Holiday, Darien Lamén, Shanterra Mitchum, Quiana Joseph-Muhammad, Jean C. Pryor, Ernesta Walker, and Rodney Allen Young.

Second, staff held numerous community input sessions with teachers, students, and the public to gather feedback to assess educational and cultural heritage tourism opportunities connected to the library's North Terrace. Michelle Finn and Christine Ridarsky then participated in a half-day brainstorming session with staff from Second Avenue Learning (SAL) that resulted in a preliminary vision for an Augmented Reality experience that will enhance visitor engagement with and the educational value of the terrace. The library has a grant from Humanities New York that allowed us to hire SAL to develop technical specifications that will allow us to seek additional funding for the development of an AR experience.

The team decided to focus on three visitor experiences: an interactive gateway that would provide visitors with an overview of the art and meaning represented on the Gateway sculpture, a 3-D virtual landscape built upon the map on the water table, and a virtual scavenger hunt to collect virtual objects at specific physical locations on the terrace or within the visible landscape. It is difficult to envision the potential in this limited verbal description, but trust us, it will be amazing! SAL's visioning and technical documentation will include sketches that will better explain the concepts. Look for that in reports in Spring 2023.

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The division also hosted a special program and birthday celebration in honor of the late Howard W. Coles, a prominent local activist, publisher, author, historian, and radio personality who championed equal rights and worked to improve conditions for Black Rochesterians in the community in the mid-20th century. Speakers included Coles' children Joan Coles Howard and Matthew Coles; former Rochester Museum & Science Center archivist Stephanie Ball, educator, and television producer Darien Lamén; and Niner Davis licensed real estate broker and winner of the Howard W. Coles Breaking Barriers Award. This event was presented in partnership with Coles's daughter, Joan Coles Howard, with support from the Rochester Museum & Science Center.
- Also in November, the division posted an on-demand cooking demonstration on YouTube in which Meghan Cholach demonstrates how to make kanapky, a traditional Ukrainian open-face sandwich made with ingredients that are readily available in a typical Ukrainian kitchen. This program was created as an ancillary to the *Welcome Home* exhibition, which celebrates the contributions of Rochester's immigrant communities. It can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/6GLt9ZNVkTI>.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The division hosted several school groups in November and December. First graders from the World of Inquiry School 58, guided by Michelle Finn and Dan Cody, used directories, photographs, maps, and other division resources to learn about the history of their school. Second graders from the Genesee Community Charter School worked with Christine Ridarsky to learn about Rochester as America's first Boom Town. Finn taught a professional development workshop for a group of second and third-grade teachers from this school; they were developing a unit on Rochester's early nursery business and sought historical information and resources. Finally, Ridarsky and Finn hosted a group of fifth graders from the World of Inquiry School 58 who were studying westward expansion.
- Finn also led a group of 11th and 12th graders from Vertus High School, a group of fifth graders from the Genesee Community Charter School, and most of the above-mentioned groups of students and teachers on five separate tours of the Rundel North Terrace to gather their feedback and ideas for future educational engagement at the site, including the AR experience discussed earlier in this report.
- Brandon Fess was interviewed by two Fairport High School students who were studying the Civil War. Fess could speak from the perspective of the library's collections and that of a descendant of multiple Union soldiers. The students asked several perceptive questions about the conflict which Fess answered at length. Unfortunately, the students have not yet shared their finished project.

Special Collections

- Brandon Fess accessioned four new items/collections in November and two in December. Significant among these accessions was the Judith Van Ness Recipe Collection (documenting changing American food traditions, 1950s to the early 2000s), the Jesse Lansner Collection of Rochester Community Players Ephemera, the Rochester Civic Garden Center Records, and the Whitelaw Roemer Photograph Collection.
- McDonald met with Midge Thomas, widow of the late Dr. Freddie Thomas, to discuss a planned donation of papers that document Dr. Thomas's service and career, the foundation named in his honor, and Mrs. Thomas's community involvement. This collection will become part of the Archive of Black History & Culture once it is officially established.
- The division received assistance from two community members whose specialist knowledge advanced the arrangement of two other significant collections. First, Barbara Appelbaum, former librarian for the Jewish Federation's Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information, spent an afternoon assisting Fess in organizing audiovisual materials in the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Collection on Holocaust Survivors in Greater Rochester. Second, Cynthia Howk, former Architectural Research Coordinator for the Landmark Society of Western New York, aided in arranging blueprints in the James DeVinney/Corn Hill Historian Papers.

Digital Projects

The FamilySearch volunteer scanning team digitized 32 items in November and 17 in December, focusing on yearbooks and directories. See below for details.

Materials scanned by FamilySearch, November 2022:

Title	Volume	Author	Pages	Call no	Publisher and place	Publication date
The Witan	1956	Charlotte High School	96	Rr373R676c 1956	Colonial Litho Corp, Rochester, NY	1956
The Witan	1957	Charlotte High School	112	Rqr373R67 6c 1957	Colonial Litho Corp, Rochester, NY	1957
The Witan	1958	Charlotte High School	112	Rrq373R67 6c 1933-1958	Colonial Litho Corp, Rochester, NY	1958
The Witan	1959	Charlotte High School	112	Rqr373R67 6c 1959	Unknown	1959
The Witan	1960	Charlotte High School	112	Rqr373R67 6c 1960	Colonial Litho Corp, Rochester, NY	1960
The Witan	1961	Charlotte High School	129	Rr373R676c 1961	Unknown	1961
The Witan	1962	Charlotte High School	128	Rqr373R67 6c 1962	Colonial Litho Corp, Rochester, NY	1962
The Witan	1963	Charlotte High School	140	Rqr373R67 6c 1963	American Yearbook Company, Hannibal, Missouri	1963
The Witan	1964	Charlotte High School	148	Rr373R676c 1964	American Yearbook Company, Hannibal, Missouri	1964
The Witan	1965	Charlotte High School	148	Rqr373R67 6c 1965	American Yearbook Company, Hannibal, Missouri	1965
The Witan	1966	Charlotte High School	140	Rqr373R67 6c 1966	American Yearbook Company, Hannibal, Missouri	1966
The Witan	1967	Charlotte High School	144	Rr373R676c 1967	American Yearbook Company, Hannibal, Missouri	1967
The Witan	1968	Charlotte High School	147	Rr373R676c 1968	American Yearbook Company, Hannibal, Missouri	1968
The Witan	1969	Charlotte High School	160	Rr373R676c 1969	Keller Yearbook	1969
The Witan	1970	Charlotte High School	160	Rqr373R67 6c 1970	Unknown	1970

MCLS Director's Report – January 2023 (Continued)

The Witan	1971	Charlotte High School	176	Rr373R676c 1971	Unknown	1971
The Witan	1973	Charlotte High School	112	Rr373R676c 1973	Western Yearbook Publishers	1973
The Witan	1975	Charlotte High School	136	Rr373R676c 1975	Western Yearbook Publishers	1975
The Witan	1976	Charlotte High School	160	Rr373R676c 1976	Western Yearbook Publishers	1976
The Witan	1977	Charlotte High School	144	Rrq373R67 6c 1977	Western Yearbook Publishers	1977
The Witan	1978	Charlotte High School	151	Rr373R676c 1978	Western Yearbook Publishers	1978
The Witan	1983	Charlotte High School	96	Rrq373R67 6c 1983	Unknown	1983
The Witan	1984	Charlotte High School	104	Rr373R676c 1984	Unknown	1984
The Witan	1985	Charlotte High School	96	Rr373R676c 1985	Jostens, Minneapolis, MN	1985
The Witan	1987	Charlotte Junior-Senior High School	96	Rqr373R67 6c1987	Jostens, Minneapolis, MN	1987
The Witan	1988	Charlotte Junior-Senior High School	96	Rrq373R67 6c 1988	Unknown	1988
Rochester City Directory	1950	R.L. Polk & Co.	1575	Rr 917.4789 R676 1950	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1950
Rochester City Directory	1949	R.L. Polk & Co.	1614	Rqr917.478 9 R6761949	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1949
Rochester City Directory	1970	R.L. Polk & Co.	2020	Rr917.4789 R676 1970	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1970
Rochester City Directory	1974-75	R.L. Polk & Co.	1932	Rr917.4789 R676 1974-75	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1974-75
Rochester City Directory	1991	R.L. Polk & Co.	1252	Rr917.4789 R676 1991	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1991

MCLS Director's Report – January 2023 (Continued)

Rochester City Directory	1999	R.L. Polk & Co.	853	Rr917.4789 R676 1999	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1999
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Materials scanned by FamilySearch, December 2022:

Title	Volume	Author	Pages	Call no	Publisher and place	Publication date
Rochester City Directory	2000	R.L. Polk & Co.	632	Rr917.4789 R676 2000	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2000
Rochester City Directory	2001	R.L. Polk & Co.	522	Rr917.4789 R676 2001	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2001
Rochester City Directory	2002	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,232	Rr917.4789 R676 2002	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2002
Rochester City Directory	2003	R.L. Polk & Co.	996	Rr917.4789 R676 2003	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2003
Rochester City Directory	2004	R.L. Polk & Co.	903	Rr917.4789 R676 2004	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2004
Rochester City Directory	2005	R.L. Polk & Co.	905	Rr917.4789 R676 2005	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2005
Rochester City Directory	2006	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,008	Rr917.4789 R676 2006	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2006
Rochester City Directory	2007	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,084	Rr917.4789 R676 2007	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2007
Rochester City Directory	2008	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,004	Rr917.4789 R676 2008	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2008
Rochester City Directory	2009	R.L. Polk & Co.	996	Rr917.4789 R676 2009	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	2009
Rochester Suburban Directory	1946	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,053	Rr917.4788 R676r 1946	R.L. Polk & Co., Detroit, Michigan	1946
Rochester Suburban Directory	1965	R.L. Polk & Co.	2,290	Rr917.4788 R676r 1965	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1965
Rochester Suburban Directory	1976-1977	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,616	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1976

Rochester Suburban Directory	1981	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,506	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Boston, Massachusetts	1981
Rochester Suburban Directory	1983	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,570	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Malden, Massachusetts	1983
Rochester Suburban Directory	1984	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,588	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Malden, Massachusetts	1984
Rochester Suburban Directory	1996W	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,194	Rr917.4788 R676r	R.L. Polk & Co., Detroit, Michigan	1996

Social Media

There were four new posts to the *Local History ROCs!* blog in November and December: “A Genealogy of Place: Frequently Asked Questions about House Research, Part Two” and “A Genealogy of Place, Part Three: From Frankfort Institute to Flat Iron Cafe” by Christopher Brennan, and two parts of “There and Back Again: Jay Silverheels’ Rochester Connection” by Emily Morry. The newest posts received 61 views in November and 186 views in December. In addition, readers from over 36 countries revisited 179 previously published posts for 2,059 views in November and 2,316 in December. All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com. In reviewing the end-of-year statistics, we were pleased to note that blog readership has been steadily increasing over the past five years and that the blog had more views (25,118) and visitors (16,282) in 2022 than in any prior year.

Anecdotes/Other

One notable reference transaction involved a researcher looking at the history of the Great Embankment over time. A member of the New York State Canal Society, the researcher was looking for cartographic evidence to supplement the extensive research file that the Society already maintains on the Great Embankment. Fess was able to provide him with several historic maps from the RPL collection, link him to maps from the New York State Archives, and provide him with a primer in the ways of archival research (as he had no prior experience in that area, and needs to do more).

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Statistics

RMC rented 17 pieces of equipment and 514 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 8139 items. When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC circulated 17,285 items.

Programs

- See It First film “Top Gun: Maverick”
- The Concert series continued with the Irondequoit community orchestra The Quintessence Quintet.
- The First Friday Matinee on 12/2 was “Get Low “.
- Our See It First film “The Woman King” was shown on 12/17.
- Brown Bag Book discussions about “Vesper Flights” by Helen MacDonald, were both in person and on Zoom
- RMC performed 41 A/V setups for programs in Central Library and streamed 4 programs to YouTube.

Stewardship

In addition to our regular contribution, RMC has set aside a \$27,000.00 rollover from our Reynolds Trust Fund to help continue Mi-Fi circulation services to our community after the Federal Grant expires at the end of June 2023.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Growing Garlic in the Home Garden was presented by Jarmila Haseler from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. This program was very popular, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension sold garlic seeds from Fraser Farms for people to purchase. Garlic grows throughout the winter season, and it grows well in Western NY because of the cold temperatures.
- 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: *Beat the Holiday Blues: Tips for Handling Stress, Depression & Grief during a Season of Celebration*. Viewing numbers were high through Facebook. The series continued with: *Beat the Holiday Blues: Tips for Handling Stress, Depression & Grief during a Season of Celebration*.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Pellegrino attended the monthly meetings of the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). The group is hoping to purchase several copies of this year's Big Read book: *Deaf Republic*. Pellegrino will check with FFRPL regarding an appropriate method for getting discounted copies of the book to be paid for by HLAA. Some of the titles suggested are *Smart Hearing* by Katherine Boulton (2018); *Hearing Loss for Dummies* (2002); and *Hear & Beyond* by Shari Eberts (2022). Pellegrino will also look independently at these titles for purchase by the Science Division.
- Pellegrino also attended two meetings of the Video Workgroup meeting of the Community-Driven Cancer Research Team (part of our Wilmot partnership). More discussion was had on the video's specific focus and upcoming work with the video production team; a special follow-up meeting discussed three scenarios for video production; a meeting with the production team is next.
- LROC visitors numbered around 60 this month, a marked increase. This is even though they did not make two of their dates. Many visitors on Friday were here not only for legal help but because Legal Assistance of Western New York is assisting patrons with HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program). No doubt the arrival of cold weather has contributed to the additional visitors.

Anecdotes/Other

- Displays: Florence Morris put up a book display for Native American Heritage Month, in partnership with Melissa Manczuk (Art/Lit) who loaned two beautiful folio-size books for display along with several dolls from the George W. Cooper Doll Collection. The dolls displayed represent Aboriginal Australian, Ecuador, Guatemala, North American Indian, United States Alaska, and Peru. This is a wonderful collaboration of the two divisions to share and display older



folio books. Also displayed is a folio book from the Science, History, and Social Sciences Division. The book title is *Tarahumara: Where Night is the Day of the Moon*.

- Morris has been working with a particular patron for a year. The work began with the patron using Chat Reference to ask about aviation books. Since that initial Chat Reference, Morris has been corresponding with the patron via email. The patron is 90 years old, an avid reader, and a frequent user of the Pittsford Public Library. When the patron requests books and/or if Morris comes across books that the patron may be interested in, Morris sends the books to the Pittsford Public Library for him to pick up. The week of November 21, Morris had sent the patron an email with four photographs Lily Anthony had taken of the Science, History, and Social Sciences Division's aviation display. On Tuesday, November 29 the patron and his daughter came up to meet Morris, to see the aviation display and the Science, History, and Social Sciences Division. Morris and the patron are delighted that they can all put a face to their email correspondents.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Programs

- The Technology Center has been able to host weekly tabling sessions for Leroy Banks from Rochester Works. Mr. Banks has made some valuable connections with some of our regular patrons. The offer of professional resume services and access to the contacts available through Rochester Works are both huge benefits for many users of the Technology Center. Meeting the people most likely to need his services at the place they congregate every day makes his efforts here very efficient and he plans to continue working out of the Technology Center for the foreseeable future.

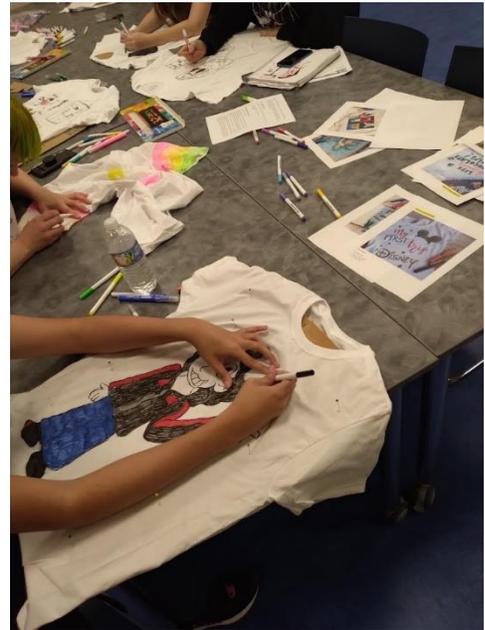
Anecdotes/Other

- Amy Shropshire had an elderly patron come in several times. Although an excellent musician, he has never been able to navigate digital spaces well enough to widely share his music. She helped him set up a YouTube channel for his music, helped him upload a few songs, start a GoFundMe for an album, and did a bit of social media marketing. He has been very understanding about staff needing to step away to help other patrons who need help with job applications or other essential tasks, but he gets as much help as possible with his more in-depth social media needs. Another patron that has needed more in-depth needs is a gentleman needing graphic design support for his fledgling roadside assistance business. Shropshire helped him make flyers and signs for his vehicle and showed him some of the options available for signs in PowerPoint and Publisher. These more in-depth projects are no less critical for those patrons and with effective time management this kind of support can be balanced between more urgent or time-sensitive tasks. They advance the lives and well-being of our patrons in practical ways while fulfilling our mission of encouraging learning and collaboration.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Girls Who Code: The fall session ended. Students can continue and finish if they choose because Girls Who Code allows them to log in to their accounts and learn even after the expected completion date. New students joined the programs.
- Teens Craft & Connect: We had a few new craft learners in November. Students participated in crocheting gifts for the upcoming holiday season. The most complex projects produced were a small pouch with a button and bracelets. We had a t-shirt painting program. Many teens participated by drawing their favorite logos and images:
- Teen Book Talk: We read these books: *Loveless* by Alice Oseman, *Surviving the City*, and *From the Roots Up (Surviving the City #2)* by Tasha Spillett. Participants had a profound discussion concerning the dilemmas of the character Dez and expressing her full identity. In December we discussed *The Teenage Girl's Guide to Living Well with ADHD: Improve Your Self-Knowledge, Self-Esteem, and Self-Care* by Sonia Ali.
- Teen Cooking Experience: Many teens and tweens participated in the Teen Central holiday cookie-making event. They had a fun time kneading, cutting, and decorating their favorite Christmas cookies.



- Esports – The Central Library eSports team earned their status as Twitch Affiliates in November. They are now eligible to earn money through donations, ads, and subscriptions. After a rocky first attempt, the team won the Farmcraft II challenge. The team president won the Tekken 7 Tournament hosted by A Gamer's Nostalgia. The team secretary was able to stream himself getting a personal record on Fortnite. [Sam Fortnite PR.mp4](#) Numerous other videos have been uploaded to the library YouTube account.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Faezah Jahanshiri had an online meeting with Blyss Buitrago, the Regional Retention Specialist for the Girls Who Code club. The meeting was to seek advice and get access to more available resources needed to overcome several challenges/roadblocks in making the Girls Who Code program at RPL a successful program. Also, Jahanshiri was contacted by Kelvin O. Sanchez Orona with Ibero American Action League. He works in the Youth Division Program as an ASPIRA Mentor at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School and is interested in enrolling 8th-grade students into our Girls Who Code program. We had a Zoom meeting to discuss ways we can collaborate toward facilitating virtual sessions and incentivizing student participation.
- Shetora Banks participated in JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) training. Getting Gender right: Role Modeling Support of Gender Diversity and Individuality and Cultivating Affirmations and Belonging for LGBTQIA and Youth with the Kaleidoscope Youth Center led by Lyndin Cudlitz.
- Faezah Jahanshiri had a meeting with Eve Tulbert at the UR Warner College of Education and started planning for the Climate Sensor project as part of the Teen Central Robotics Club to be offered in March.
- Jahanshiri was contacted by Rebecca Lauzon of the Rochester Museum & Science Center. She invited Teen Central to collaborate with them as part of an ecosystem of learning hubs across the Northeast. They receive support from NASA and small science and technology centers across the Northeast aiming to create a community of connected and data-rich climate and environmental sciences learning experiences for youth. <https://www.learningecosystemsnortheast.org/>.
- Shetora Banks attended the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training series: Windows and Mirrors: LGBTQIA affirming programs and curriculum and Grant Writing: Fund development for sustaining high-quality programs.

Anecdotes/Other

Lisa M. Feinstein, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Co-Chair, of The Strong's Women in Games Initiative at The Strong National Museum of Play reached out to Teen Central because she was aware of our involvement with the Girls Who Code program. She extended us free tickets, \$35 value each, for interested youth to attend a wonderful program *Gaming for All: A Women in Games Celebration*. The program included micro presentations and a panel discussion with trailblazers from the video game industry—including Beth Llewelyn, Principal & Co-Founder, Zebra Partners; Sydney Adams, senior game designer at Take-Two Interactive Software; Shannon Loftis, retired Xbox Team executive with Microsoft; Lauren Synger, Voice Actor, Voice Director, Singer, Songwriter; Jenny Xu, CEO Talofa Games; and Rebecca Heineman, CEO at Olde Sküül—with additional insights from Jenn Hinton, Associate Director of RIT's MAGIC Center/MAGIC Spell Studios. Youth were also able to visit the museum's exhibits and enjoy refreshments.