



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: March 20, 2023  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–March 2023

## ***Action Items***

### **Use of Automation Trust Fund, IBM Cognos Analytics**

When renewing TLC's CARL contract in 2021, one of the pricing options included an analytics tool, IBM Cognos. The solution can support system reports such as title usage and turnover, library patronage by specific time frame, and many of the reports manually generated by LAS currently. The product was not fully implemented in 2021 but is deployable today. The hundreds of combinations of reports can be formatted in various visual capacities (forms, charts, graphs, crosstabs, etc.). Output can also be saved in many formats, including Excel, PDF, text, CSV, HTML, and XML. This will be a significant expansion of the data tools currently available to member libraries with LAS support.

The first-year costs include set-up, installation and testing, and LAS staff training, for a total of \$9,200. Subsequent license maintenance costs are \$1,600 per year and will be incorporated in future MCLS operating budgets. We are requesting the use of the Automation Trust fund for this first-year expense. The current Automation trust fund balance is \$86,000 and the last utilization was for CARL hosting conversion costs.

**Board Action Requested:** Approve utilization of the Automation Trust fund for \$9,200 for implementation of the analytics tool, IBM Cognos.

### **Approval of Telecommunication Contracts for E-Rate Funding**

LAS and Finance staff has reviewed proposals for internet and point-to-point digital transmission services for all MCLS member libraries. The Federal E-rate program reimburses the MCLS up to 90% of telecommunications costs, based on the location of the system service hub (free lunch eligibility rate for Rochester City School District).

The MCLS issued two requests for proposals: one to provide a fully managed, lit fiber point to multi-point WAN solution to serve 31 member-library locations, scalable during the contract term up to 5 Gbps (digital transmission), and dedicated internet access scalable up to 10 Gbps. The proposed term of service is 36 months, with all installation, configuration, and testing services to be completed by June 30, 2023, for commencement on July 1, 2023.

Three vendors submitted proposals for digital transmission services: Crown Castle, Frontier, and Spectrum. Three vendors also submitted for the internet: Crown Castle, First Light, and Spectrum. A team of four MCLS/RPL staff reviewed proposals based on cost, implementation plan, network management & reliability, administrative support & reporting, and experience with the MCLS. Based on these criteria, Crown Castle is the recommended vendor for both digital transmission services and internet services. Rates are fixed for the contract term with each site able to increase bandwidth as needed. Expenses and anticipated revenues for services are built into the annual operating budgets of the MCLS.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an agreement for digital transmission services with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC for the services described for the period July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an agreement for internet services with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC for the services described for the period July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026.

## **Report & Discussion Items**

### ***MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting***

**MCLS One System Team** – The work of this team is picking up as the group evaluates the best way to re-energize the MCLS Staff Association and develop new opportunities for staff personal and professional development. Members of the group have activated an app included with Office 365 called Yammer, which functions in a way similar to Facebook but is private to MCLS. Groups on reading, children's services, and other topics have become popular. The Team is also planning a staff development workshop on civil service, which is always a confusing element of working in public libraries. I am currently leading the team, but we'll be discussing the elections of a chair and vice-chair soon.

**Take It Down at RMSC** – I have been in contact with RMSC staff and we are working on planning an event for MCLS and RPL trustees in the Fall. RMSC is currently booked up for the spring and summer for this program.

**Finger Lakes Emerging Library Leaders Course** – This month has included significant time spent on developing the classes for this 12-month course. Adrienne Pettinelli from Henrietta, John Cohen from Ogden, and Ron Kirsop from the OWWL System have worked with me to finalize plans for the first two classes which will focus on personal leadership and develop the final project assignment. Students will have a choice of a presentation of their final project or the development of a written project that showcases written communication techniques. Applications are due March 17; there are currently 18 applicants for 20 seats as of March 12.

## **MCLS Member Libraries**

### ***Jennifer Smathers reporting***

#### **Correction to January report**

The following item was inadvertently listed under the wrong library, the art contest was held at Brighton Memorial 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.

#### **Collaborative Programs hosted by multiple member libraries:**

Fairport and Irondequoit celebrated World Read Aloud Day on February 1 with a virtual G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time) Storytime! Miss Annie, Miss Lauren, and Mr. Carl from Fairport Public Library teamed up with Miss Amy and Mr. Matt from [Irondequoit Public Library](https://www.irondequoitpubliclibrary.org/) for this program, which featured special guest, Houdini the Goat from Lollypop Farm! Houdini is a member of Lollypop's Paw-fice Pals Program. The program is designed to invite a Paw-fice Pal or Farmyard Friend to your next virtual meeting. Check out Lollypop's site to learn more:

<https://www.lollypop.org/paw-fice-pals-virtual-meetings/>

Brighton Memorial Library

In honor of LeVar Burton's birthday, Brighton staff became a live reading rainbow.



Spectrum News 1 Rochester highlighted the Bilingual Storytime partnership with ChildROC! These storytimes are held once a month at BML [https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2023/02/26/groups-share-culture-through-bilingual-story-time-at-brighton-memorial-library?cid=id-app15\\_m-share\\_s-web\\_cmp-app\\_launch\\_august2020\\_c-producer\\_posts\\_po-organic?cid=share\\_clip](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2023/02/26/groups-share-culture-through-bilingual-story-time-at-brighton-memorial-library?cid=id-app15_m-share_s-web_cmp-app_launch_august2020_c-producer_posts_po-organic?cid=share_clip)

Chili Public Library

Family Game Day featured Monopoly life-sized in the Ireland Room, Candyland in the Children's Room, Scrabble in the Reading Room, Connect-4, Kerplunk, Yahtzee, and Jenga in the Spark Lap. A patron commented, *"Yes!! My grandsons, ages 4 and 6, were there yesterday for 2 1/2 hours! It is the best! They played life-size Floor Candyland 3x, and all the games were in the Spark Lab."*

East Rochester Public Library

Thank you to Joe and the gang from DPW who are currently doing a construction project for the library. A storage and a reading nook are being built under the stairs.

Gates Public Library

Take Your Child to the Library Day was celebrated on February 4. Many fun and exciting programs and activities occurred throughout the day. Programs started with a Baby Story Time in the morning, then a lunch-hour Pizza Story Time, with stories, songs, and pizza. Followed by African Drumming and Dancing with Mayukwa. There was also a scavenger hunt available all day.

Greece Public Library

From tweens who crafted with nail boards and created with glow-in-the-dark to the children's storytimes and therapy dog visits February was a busy month! The patrons at the Story Time Car Wash on February 23 had a blast creating a car out of a box, going through a car wash, then enjoying a drive-in movie with snacks.

Hamlin Public Library

February's Cookbook Club featured patron's favorite recipes, which proved both fun and delicious. Next month will be based on Brunch & Bobby's by Bobby Flay.



Henrietta Public Library

Don't let the dove run the library! Pudge is a rescued dove who usually lives inside Tinker Park's Nature Center, but he stayed at the library for a week in February. One patron noted,

"Pudge was on FIRE 🔥 today! Charming the kids, singing his scales of cooing and trills. I wish EVERY DAY was a Pudge Day!"



Irondequoit Public Library

If you missed the Irondequoit Historical Society's presentation about The History of Zoning in Irondequoit with Jim Hinman, you can watch the recording now on the Library's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGGXUbKhjXQ>

Mendon Public Library

Local author Suzanne Schnittman discussed her new book, *Provocative Mothers and Their Precocious Daughters: 19th Century Women's Rights Leaders*. The Women's History Month presentation included the opportunity to buy the book.

Ogden Farmers' Library

The 2023 Reading Challenge has arrived! This year you only need to complete 12 of the reading challenges to be entered into the end-of-the-year drawing for a \$50 gift card. There is a challenge sheet that features 24 specific reading challenges like "Read a book written the year you were born" or "Read a book with a tree on the cover." Pick up your reading challenge at the library or print one out here: <http://www.ogdenlibrary.com/adult.html>

Parma Public Library

[Genesee Country Village & Museum](#) visited to present on 19th Century Games. After a presentation on games and toys during that period, people got to try them out! We learned a lot and had so much fun! Patrons had an amazing time with Mayukwa and Mr. King for African Drumming! We played instruments, sang songs, danced, and learned some phrases in different languages. Thank you to [Building Families First](#) for the program. Patron's positive comments included, "Thank you Parma Library!!! We had a great time."



Penfield Public Library

Whew! Valentine's Day, the Superbowl, Mardi Gras, spring break, miniatures, and more - February was a busy month but it flew right by.

Pittsford Community Library

Amanda Chestnut, the curator of [Visual Studies Workshop's In This Moment 1 & 2](#), discussed, via Zoom, the launch of the first two chapbooks in ITM 2. For the project, 10 teams of Black writers and photographers are paired with 10 Black leaders from Rochester. Amanda was joined by Reenah Golden, Founder, Executive & Artistic Director of the [Avenue Blackbox Theatre](#), and Timothy James Johnson Ph.D., Minister at Asbury First United Methodist Church and Professor Emeritus at Roberts Wesleyan College.



Rush Public Library

Patrons in February were invited to pick up a Book Tracker Bookmark, designed to work as a reading log.

Seymour Library

The In Stitches program on February 24 was well attended. Led by Leslie Boedicker and Lorraine D'Angelo who taught the basics of sewing using a machine. One person noted, "Great job, Leslie!"



Webster Public Library

To celebrate World Read Aloud Day, library staff members read aloud from 12:30 until 2:00 pm, on Wednesday, February 1. People read aloud from some of their favorite books. There was a World Read Aloud Storytime that evening. Families enjoyed stories, songs, and rhymes! If you missed out, you can see Reader's Discovery Librarian Jenny reading a passage from *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum here: [https://fb.watch/jbcy\\_gl8bm/](https://fb.watch/jbcy_gl8bm/)

## MCLS Office Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

### Library Advocacy

The MCLS office coordinated 1 in-district meeting with Senator Brouk on February 2. Gunther also cross-promoted Library Advocacy Day in Albany on the library's social media accounts.

### Events and Meetings

Alicia Gunther continues to work with staff from NTID/RIT to discuss plans for the NEA Big Read happening in April 2023, featuring the book *Deaf Republic* by Ilya Kaminsky. Gunther has been assisting with the promotions of the events surrounding the Big Read at member libraries and RIT during March and April. Gunther is also working to gather related program information from member libraries to share with NTID. 40 copies of *Deaf Republic* as an e-book through Overdrive and Simultaneous use of the audiobook will be live through April to support the Big Read.

### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Trustee Handbook Book Club

Introductory Trustee Training, February 22, 2023. 37 attendees.

Trustee Resources: [https://libraryweb.org/about\\_us/mcls-board-of-trustees/trustee-resources/](https://libraryweb.org/about_us/mcls-board-of-trustees/trustee-resources/)

Visitor Industry Council Meeting

### Social Media

February 2023	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	352	299	1087			105	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	0 (2,097)	3 (2,229)	25 (5,764)	-	8	41 (2,361)	21 (475)
Engagements	33	74	694		51	181	49
Check-In/ Mentions	9	14	-	-	-	6	-
Post Reach	1641	12810	14602		-	979	31742
Video/Story Views	-	-	110	-	-	132	1079

### Constant Contact Newsletter

Central/RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)

- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 4,883
- Click through – 110

New subscribers – 9

### OverDrive

- Total Checkouts- 78,221
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 817
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 8,222

- SORA Checkouts- 750
- Great Courses- 111

### ***Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting***

#### In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 19 in-home patrons. Two new patrons (City of Rochester, Pittsford) were added this month.

#### In-Home Materials Distribution

- Home Deliveries: 17 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)
- Braille and Audio Reading Download by Mail: 2 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (each cartridge included 15-25 titles selected and downloaded by Outreach staff)
- Books by Mail: 0 patrons received physical library materials via USPS

Outreach staff mailed out 5 reference packets to in-home patrons.

#### Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 12 library stations—fulfilling special requests for 9 sites. There were no missed deliveries this month (Cycle Two).

#### Support Visit

Discenza and Kyle made a station support visit to River Edge Manor, an age-restricted, independent living facility in the City of Rochester. Discenza and Kyle met with Activities Director Tony Biuso and two active residents to review the site's micro-collection profile (preferred formats, quantities, genres, and authors) and discuss other collections and services available through the department. Outreach staff keep a profile for each library station served and use this information when selecting materials for their bimonthly deliveries and for making purchasing decisions in general. Micro-collection profiles should be revisited regularly to ensure the department is meeting the needs of current residents. Station visits often reveal other insights about resident needs: at this visit, Outreach staff were able to help establish a procedure for residents to share their specific book requests with Mr. Biuso, who will pass them along to us for inclusion in future deliveries.

#### Corrections and Reentry Support

- Due to a recent policy change, the Monroe County Jail is unable to accept print books and periodicals from the Outreach Department. It remains unclear whether this will extend to their school program, for which the department provides GED study guides and other test prep materials. Pending interest and cooperation from jail administrators, Outreach Department staff are willing to explore the possibility of providing OverDrive access to incarcerated individuals, all of whom have access to a tablet.
- Wes Becker and Discenza presented to a group from the Women's Unit at the Monroe County Jail about local library and reentry services. Discenza kicked off the presentation with a sampler of library services: discussing the abundance of libraries in Monroe County; how to get a library card or a fresh start; collections and services for job seekers and aspiring small business owners; valuable library partnerships and collaborations; digital library resources; untraditional library collections; free events; and more. Becker followed with a rich and well-received discussion of reentry resources, beginning with steps one can take

while still incarcerated—such as demonstrating evidence of rehabilitation, crafting a personal statement, and getting a copy of your RAP sheet—before working his way through a variety of educational, job training, and reentry programs, as well as legal and health-related resources available in our community that folks can take advantage of upon their release.

- Outreach staff hosted a Certificates of Rehabilitation Workshop, the third in a four-part Community-Based Legal Education series for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system. An attorney and other service professionals from Legal Assistance of Western NY and the Judicial Process Commission presented information to justice-involved attendees about their legal rights and the importance of obtaining both 1) their official RAP Sheet, and 2) Certificates of Rehabilitation, as they are eligible for them. Attendees were very engaged, asking multiple questions specific to their situations. A few attendees were fingerprinted by LAWNY for free as the first step in obtaining their RAP Sheet. Other attendees expressed intent to follow up with the service providers.

### **Outreach**

- Discenza and Kyle spoke to a group of residents at 270 East Avenue Apartments about essential library programs and services. 270 East Ave is a diverse community that includes supportive housing for both older adults and homeless veterans. In their presentation, Discenza and Kyle highlighted Outreach Department services for seniors; library collections and services that encourage life-long learning, and those 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.
- LeVar Burton Reads Short Story Discussion. Discenza 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 "Cuisine des Mémoires" by N.K. Jemisin.

## ***Central Library Updates***

***Jennifer Smathers reporting***

***Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting***

### **Programs**

- Celebrate Black History Month: Paint a T-shirt with an Adinkra Symbol--Artist Jennifer Jones, from Teaching Artists ROC, taught this workshop where students learned about the history and meaning of Adinkra symbols found throughout West Africa. Students then painted and printed their own Adinkras T-shirts to produce a wearable piece of art. Adinkra translates as "farewell" or "goodbye" in Asante Twi, a language spoken in Ghana by approximately 15 million people. However, they are widely used across Africa and in the diaspora. Symbols such as Adinkra were of vital importance to the exercise of royal power in the Kingdom of Asante, Ghana. Cloth such as this was originally worn by people of high status, and its symbols were used to proclaim the king's authority. These symbols also are used on important wooden objects, and brass, as two-dimensional stamped designs on cloth. Patrons very much enjoyed this class and their comments reflected this. Some comments were, "Learning the meaning of the symbol after we had chosen it. We were able to grasp what spoke to us through the image instead of the meaning, and



“chatting with others in the group.” Another patron said, “thank you for providing these classes to our community!”

- Celebrate Black History Month: STRUGGLE! The Power of Story & Art for Historical Change and Transformation Through Jacob Lawrence Storyteller. Almeta Whitis engaged the heart, and spirit, and presented visual art cornerstones found in a mural series created by Black American Master Mural Artist: Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000). His “Struggle Series” is comprised of 27 of the known 30-panel series produced between 1954-56. It presents Lawrence's little-known stories of America's founding principals' historical underpinnings, including images of Black people and immigrant contributions. He was unable to secure funding support for his original idea to create 60 murals based upon historical events to complete his vision, so he had to reduce it to 30. “The Great Migration Series,” was a WPA Artist Project, and was produced between the late thirties and early 1950s. Essential elements of Jacob Lawrence's mural series included community cohesiveness and strong family values and relationships. Recognizing and creatively maintaining communal ties with a keen observation of human interactions was the bedrock of his artistic vision. His true genius captures our emotions as we feel the power in his spare style and vibrant colors based upon his impeccable, intimate historical research.
- Poets, Scott Williams, and Doug Curry gave a reading in Kusler-Cox Auditorium as part of Central’s Celebrate Black History Month. Patrons were thoroughly impressed with both poets and their poetry was chosen for this reading centering on their African American upbringings. The readings focused on their childhoods in Baltimore and Harlem, their young adulthoods in the 1960s and 70s, and their current poetic observations on life and culture. One attendee emailed: “This was one of the most impactful readings I’ve attended. How many readings will leave people wanting to look up poems and poets referenced? ... This is the first reading that left me wanting to go back and review my 70 years— and left me asking myself questions about what my role is (was and could be) in a society that has blatantly enforced racism in so many hypocritical guises.”

### Outreach

Nanci Nugent and Corinne Clar met with Brandon Brooks, Curator of the John L. Wehle Gallery at the Genesee County Village Museum and oversees the care and exhibition of the museum's historic clothing and soft goods collections. Brooks is working on a project to create a database of patterns from museums, libraries and historical societies in Western New York. Clar and Nugent reviewed several rare clothing and pattern folios in the Central Library collection, such as Delineator and Godey’s Lady’s Book. Brooks will do a Zoom presentation in the spring discussing the museum and this project, “Becoming Gendered: Garment as Gender Artifact” which will explore how 19th century Americans perceived and performed gender through clothing and fashion.

### ***Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting***

#### Programs

- Business First Wednesday: The Era of Antisocial Social Media with Gina Mangiamele of the Small Business Development Center.
- Cannabis Industry Meetup: Predatory Lending in Cannabis with William X. Wolfe and Bart Chacchia of Harris Beach Law Firm.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Climate Solutions Accelerator to discuss how BIC can be of assistance. She also met with Montinique Kniffen, the new administrative assistant at Impellent Ventures, to give her an overview of venture capital 101. She attended a meeting for the EntreLib Entrepreneurship and Libraries Conference. They are hosting a pitch competition for libraries, the focus of which is how your library can support local economic development, workforce development, job hunters, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and/or small businesses. The first prize wins \$4,000.

Byrnes will be pitching a cannabis business accelerator program. Lastly, she met with the team from RIT Venture Creations to discuss grant strategies for them.

- BIC hosted a business class from Robert's Wesleyan College. The whole team assisted.

#### Consulting

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 5 in person, 29 by email, 0 by mail, 5 by phone, and 1 by Zoom.
- Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 0
- Carlson Center Webpage views: 29
- 3D Printer: 3
- Hours of in-depth market research: 54
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 17
- Tracy Jong appointments: 3 hours 20 minutes, 4 appointments.

#### Database Usage

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 23 Value: \$88,950
- IBISWorld: Page views: 63 Value: \$25,330
- InnovationQ: Logins: 7 Searches: 65
- PitchBook: Logins: 26
- Statista: Searches: 13 Downloads: 7

#### Anecdotes/Other

- We received this email from Ervin Starr, Ph.D., Professor of Strategy and Management & Social Entrepreneurship at Robert's Wesleyan:  
*"Thank you again for meeting with and supporting our students in their entrepreneurship efforts. We are thankful the community has you and your team as a rich resource for our community."*
- Susan Shiroma, A business librarian from the Queens Public Library, attended the Cannabis Industry MeetUp and had this to say:  
*"I'm so impressed and excited for your team and community... You are amazing! Thank you and the team at Harris Beach for a fantastic presentation this evening. I found out about the meeting via the Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County's e-newsletter (see below). Rochester is one of my favorite NYS libraries."*
- Byrnes was asked to be a mentor to a pitch competition team for AHA! 2023 Allegany County Startup Collegiate Competition. Teams from Alfred State, Houghton College, and Alfred University compete for \$5,000, \$2,500, or \$1,000.

### **Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting**

#### Programs

- Abukar had Almeta Whitis present the program, “Stories from Black Worlds” which included songs of African origin and four moral tales from various parts of Africa. Children guessed what animal she was behaving as, told the story with her, and ran to her at the end for hugs.
- Kyle had a crochet and writing group every week. They had a small yet lively group of kids that were of a variety of ages. The kids had fun writing stories together and were very excited to share their ideas. Crocheting was interesting as Kyle is a lefty and all the crocheters were righties, but the basics were able to be put together.
- Powell had artist and Rochester Institute of Technology professor Unique Fair present a program on the intersection of art and science. Participants learned how cultures use art to communicate important scientific concepts. He split the group into two teams and gave each team a word. They had to draw an image that communicated that concept (such as poison, high winds, cold, and radioactive) in a way that would be universally understood. Then the other team had three guesses to guess the concept, and the group evaluated the effectiveness of the drawing based on several criteria.



#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Children's Center public services staff had two of four sessions of training from the Center for Dispute Settlement. The training has been designed to help staff identify ways to support families in crisis while supporting each other and maintaining a safe environment for all.
- Tonia Burton attended the Rochester Monroe Youth Board meeting. Tony Jordan has been named the new director. This was the first in-person meeting since pre-COVID. The group discussed reenergizing efforts to engage youth throughout the county.
- Burton joined Melanie Lewis to meet with Matt Present and Alex Winslow from Imagination Library to discuss possible collaborations. It was agreed that collaborating around marketing and sharing newsletter information are some quick ways to collaborate which would help both. Present is looking into the possibility of distributing library information at clinics and Burton and Lewis are looking into if it's possible to create a library card sign-up procedure.
- Burton and Shetora Banks met with Adam Koneman from Memorial Art Gallery. Koneman is the new Museum Educator for School Outreach at the museum. They discussed ideas for possible collaboration such as workshops at the library, offering passes for youth to visit, and creating art backpacks similar to nature backpacks, if the VIP program can be reinstated.
- Powell presented library resources to two groups of pediatric residents from the University of Rochester Medical Center's Pediatric Links to the Community Program. Residents commented that they were unaware of all of the non-traditional resources the library offers and will share them with patients' families.

### Anecdotes/Other

- Batavia High School students with different abilities came to visit the city and experience the library. Ms. Keller, the teacher shared that some of her students may utilize the Central Library once out of high school, so she wanted to share all that is offered. They began with finding the Secret Room and hearing about all the different services our libraries offer, then they learned about different types of libraries around the country and world. The students then had the option to order their lunch in the Foodlink Café. This is an important life skill the students practice whenever they leave school. The staff at the café were so patient and kind. They even created a sandwich off the menu for a student who couldn't find anything to their liking. After, Burton introduced them to Teen Central and imagineYOU. Jeff Bostic had different options for the students to explore. They explored the gaming, music, and photography capabilities in the lab. Each student interested was able to get a photo puzzle to take home. They had hoped to visit Rundel but there was no time. They were able to take a great photo outside and talked about coming back. It was a huge hit. Ms. Keller was not able to make it due to COVID but reported that two weeks later, students could not stop talking about the visit.
- Burton received news that she was nominated twice this year for the I Love My Librarian Award. The most touching was from a group of moms who wrote:



*Tonia Burton is one of the kindest, sweetest, most knowledgeable, most understanding, most genuine people I've ever met in my life. Tonia and I initially connected because both of our children have Down syndrome. She took the time to reach out to me before my Evie was born to tell me that everything was going to be okay and that I could reach out to her anytime. We initially met at the library pretty quickly after my Evie was born and our friendship was then cemented forever. She was so quick to share little tidbits of her life that were a huge help to me and my daughter. Tonia is forever spreading knowledge of the children's programs available, books and resources available at all of the local libraries, and helping parents and caregivers to connect with not only one another but with the resources that their families need. Tonia located and sent through intra-library-loan a social story about going to the hospital after I asked her about the lack of available stories for kids with autism on that topic. If anyone goes to her with a question she will go above and beyond to make sure you have what you need. My friends and I have formed a not-for-profit working with families with children in Early Intervention and preschool special education. Tonia has been an amazing advocate in helping us to spread the word to all of our Monroe County families when we have an event or information to share. She has sent flyers and emails and even made phone calls for us to make sure that families are getting the information they need. Tonia is always willing to go above and beyond for any of her families and gives so much of herself every day. -Danielle Salamone, Brittany Jencik, and Kimberly Dooher*

### Raising A Reader

This month Chaves and Coonelly attended the Hart Street and Ibero's friendship celebration for families. RAR staff shared library books and various literacy-based skills for families to engage with their children. RAR staff also provided some holiday theme sensory activities. We focused on the story *Snowballs* and families were able to complete activities based on the book such as sequencing and sorting of items found in the story. Children were also able to work on their fine motor skills with a color sorting tray using oversized tweezers, colored cotton balls, and a muffin tin. Another fine motor skill activity was the friendship bracelets made with chenille sticks and beads. RAR staff continues to provide support for staff in bag rotation and in story times. The last week in February did cause some disruption in our regular visits due to the winter break.



During the Ibero outreach, Chaves was able to discuss with families how the RAR program has helped them and their families. Here are a couple of those responses:

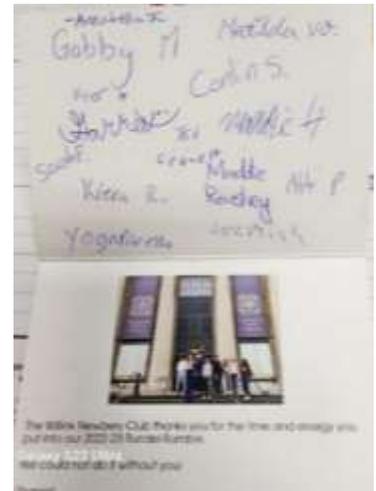
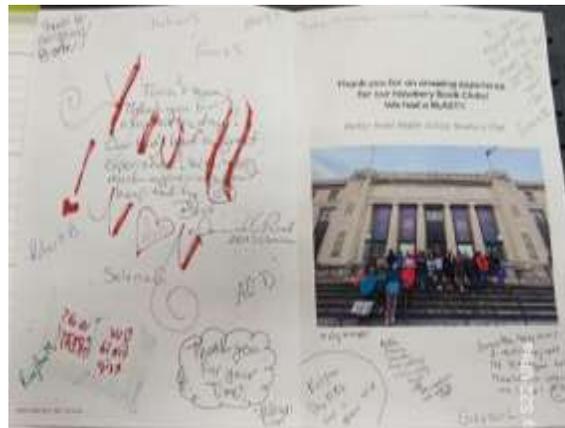
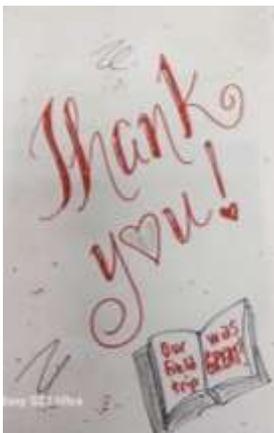
*"I love the books and so does my daughter. I feel that she has really learned a lot from being able to have different books every week. I also really appreciate the Spanish books that come home."*

PreK Parent; Translated into English

*"I love that the books are all different, they get excited when they see a new bag coming home. I have an older child who enjoys reading the books to her younger siblings."*

-Betzy PreK Parent

Thank you cards from schools that used Hacker Hall in January for their Mock Newbery Program:



### ***Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting***

#### Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments-5
- New Borrowers-189
- RRLC Access Cards Issued-0
- Notarial Acts-152

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Chad Cunningham and Callise Wiley were working at the circulation desk when a patron who places many, many holds came in to pick up the 30 items that were waiting for him. The patron laughed and said that sometimes he feels like Rocky training on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art when he takes his books home. Cunningham, Wiley, and the patron all started humming the Rocky training song. You know the one. You're humming it now too, aren't you?
- During February patrons were able to share what they love about the library in exchange for a sweet treat. Many people appreciated the quiet, friendly atmosphere of the library. The helpful and kind staff were mentioned several times. The Children's Center, the Teen Center, Technology Center, and the Business division were singled out by patrons. One younger patron said,  
*"I love reading it's the best thing ever. Soon I'm going to write my own book. Soon I'm going to be an artist to draw the pictures. I'll write a chapter book. I love writing so I'll be writing a lot."*  
It was nice to see what excites people about the library.
- Kathy Sochia was working at the Circulation Desk when a patron in some distress came in. She was upset and wasn't wearing shoes. The patron went to sit in the link. Sochia went to the third floor to see if LROC staff were available to help the patron. They hadn't come in yet, but, when they did arrive, Sochia directed them to the patron so that they could assist her. This is an ongoing and often unspoken part of working in the library: providing patrons in need and crisis with whatever assistance we can find. The Circulation and Information staff are a constant source of inspiration for their supervisor.

### ***Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting***

Staffing shortages pervaded the library this month, and the Local History & Genealogy Division was no exception. Christine Ridarsky and Michelle Finn interviewed candidates to fill the vacant part-time Library Assistant position created by Leah Green's departure at the end of January. They extended an offer and hope to have Mario Castillo start in this position in March. Meanwhile, the division has relied on substitute librarian Christopher Brennan to help fill the gaps. Despite these challenges, division staff—most notably Dan Cody—has been able to pitch in to help cover shortages in the library's Technology Center and Shipping Department and will continue to provide as much support as possible to these key service areas.

The project to develop an Archive of Black History & Culture saw steady progress in February. The project was marketed through a press release and as a spotlight feature on the library's website (<https://roccitylibrary.org/archive-of-black-history-culture/>) with information about the Community Advisory Board, project goals, activities, and contact information for Project Manager Antoine McDonald and Project Assistant Mekko Mongeon. The archive's Community Advisory Board met twice this month and held the first two (one virtual, one in-person) in a series of community-centered focus group sessions designed to garner input from the public regarding the types of materials and topics documenting the experiences of Black Rochesterians that people would like to see collected and housed in the archive. This input is being gathered

through a survey created by the Community Advisory Board. There are another two focus group sessions planned for March (one virtual, one in-person), and surveys will continue to be collected through the RPL website and in the Local History & Genealogy Division. To complete the survey and contribute to this input-gathering stage of the project, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-LnuN5qg7EiuTRMeq9uQQ3dt2HwVPVFydW37ELEuD-7Kxdw/viewform>.

Finally, the latest issue of the *Rochester History* journal, edited by Ridarsky and Emily Morry, was mailed out this month. This special double issue examines “A History of Mental Health Care in Rochester, 1826-1975” and features two articles by local health care and public health professionals who trace the history of local mental health care from the 19th-century almshouse to late-20th-century developments in psychiatric care. It is available for purchase for \$8 through the FFRPL’s Library Store. This will be the last issue produced in-house. The next issue will be the first produced in partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology’s Department of History and RIT Press.

*Orders Fulfilled:*

	February 2022	February 2023	Increase
Life Records	6	86	1,333.33%
Newspaper Index	4	10	150.00%
Rochester Images	5	20	300.00%

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The February installment of *Mourning in the Morning*, presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, featured a talk by Sally Millick on “The Underground Railroad.” The program was held via Zoom; a recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/i0eOD2treHE>.
- *Rochester’s Rich History* featured a talk by Lavelle Lewis on “John W. Thompson, a Black American Hero.” The program was held in person in Kusler-Cox Auditorium. A recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/E4QqzSqa61g>.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- McDonald was a featured speaker for February’s *Tuesday Topics* series sponsored by the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. McDonald presented how the library helps to foster equity and justice with diverse cultural community representation in programs and services, including the new Archive of Black History & Culture.
- McDonald stood in for Assemblyman Demond Meeks as a guest speaker for Greece Olympia’s Black Student Union Scholars Recognition Dinner. McDonald spoke alongside the superintendent of the Greece School District and the coordinator of equity and inclusivity for the Pittsford School District.
- Fess presented “Voices from Rochester’s Past,” a talk about the special collections’ holdings of the Rochester Public Library, at the Greece Public Library as part of their new speakers series on genealogy.
- Ridarsky and Finn met with staff from Second Avenue Learning (SAL) to fine-tune the three ideas, generated at a December brainstorming session, for Augmented Reality (AR) experiences that will enhance visitor engagement and the educational value of the Rundel North Terrace. This work is being conducted under a Vision Grant from Humanities New York. Ridarsky, Finn, and the SAL team are also exploring the next steps for the project and what it will take to execute the vision for AR in this space.
- Ridarsky, Finn, and Fess met with Tamara Leigh (*Blaque/Out Magazine*), Braden Reese (ImageOut), and Steve Jarose (National Coalition Building Institute) to discuss the development of foundational documents

for the *Shoulders To Stand On (STSO)* project as it transitions to its new institutional home at the library, as well as the panel the STSO team has assembled for the upcoming Rainbow Dialogues program.

- Ridarsky and Morry met with RIT history professors Tamar Carroll and Rebecca Edwards three times in February, and once with Carroll, Edwards, and their colleague Michael Brown, to discuss various matters concerning the first issue of the *Rochester History* journal that will be published by RIT Press in Spring 2023, the forthcoming journal issue to be published in Fall 2023, and the upcoming April 2023 conference, “Rochester & the Mid-Sized American City in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” which will mark this new publication partnership.
- Ridarsky was a guest on the online video podcast *The State of Greater Western New York Report* where she discussed the Monroe County bicentennial in 2022 and the role of municipal historians. The show was recorded and can be viewed at <https://stateof.greaterwesternnewyork.com/2023/02/city-historian-christine-ridarsky-explains-formation-history-of-rochester-and-upcoming-erie-canal-bicentennial/>.

#### Digital Projects

- The division contributes digitized content to a handful of online platforms, increasing discoverability and access to these materials. In February, there were 699 page views of division content available through *New York State Historic Newspapers* (<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>); 1,347 page views of content available through *New York Heritage* (<https://nyheritage.org/>); and 1,628 page views of content available through the library's *Rochester Voices* site (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/>).
- The FamilySearch volunteer scanning team digitized 94 books this month, including the last of the city and suburban directories and several yearbooks. See below for details. Once this material is available online, we will include monthly page views for it with our online materials use statistics.

#### Materials scanned by FamilySearch, February 2023:

Title	Volume	Author	Pages	Call no	Publisher and place	Publication date
Rochester Suburban Directory	2010S	R.L. Polk & Co.	638	Rr917.4788 Rr676rs	R.L. Polk & Co., Ralston, Nebraska	2010
Rochester City Directory	2010	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,062	Rr917.4788 R676r 2010	R.L. Polk & Co., Ralston, Nebraska	2010
Rochester Suburban Directory	2011E	R.L. Polk & Co.	1,316	Rr917.4788 R676re	R.L. Polk & Co., Ralston, Nebraska	2011
The Key	Jun 1931	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	72	Rqr373R676b 1931	Art Print Shop, Inc., Rochester, NY	1931
The Key	Jan 1932	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	60	Rqr373R676b 1932	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1932
The Key	Jun 1932	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	68	Rrq373R676b 1932	Art Print Shop, Rochester, NY	1932
The Key	Jan 1935	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	48	Rqr373R676b 1935	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1935

*MCLS Director's Report – March 2023 (Continued)*

The Key	Jun 1935	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	60	Rqr373R676b 1935	Art Print Shop, Rochester, NY	1935
The Key	Jun 1936	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	70	Rqr373R676b 1936	Unknown	1936
The Key	Jun 1937	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	54	Rqr373R676b 1937	Benjamin Franklin High School	1937
The Key	Jan 1938	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	46	Rqr373R676b 1938	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1938
The Key	1940	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	84	Rrq373R676b 1940	Unknown	1940
The Key	1942	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	76	Rqr373R676b 1942	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1942
The Key	1943	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	64	Rrq373R676b 1943	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1943
The Key	1944	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	64	Rr373R676b 1944	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1944
The Key	1945	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	68	Rqr373R676b 1945	Unknown	1945
The Key	1947	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	68	Rrr373R676b 1947	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	1947
The Key	1948	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	68	Rrq373R676b 1948	Durand, Chicago, IL	1948
The Key	1949	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	98	Rrq373R676b 1949	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	1949
The Key	1950	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	84	Rrq373R676b 1950	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1950
The Key	1951	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	91	Rqr373R676b 1951	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1951
The Key	1952	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	88	Rqr373R676b 1952	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	1952

MCLS Director's Report – March 2023 (Continued)

The Key	1953	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	96	Rqr373R676b 1953	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	1953
The Key	1954	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	100	Rqr373R676b 1954	Unknown	1954
The Key	1955	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	107	Rqr373R676b 1955	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1955
The Key	1956	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	96	Rqr373R676b 1956	Unknown	1956
The Key	1957	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rqr373R676b 1957	Unknown	1957
The Key	1958	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	100	Rqr373R676b 1958	Unknown	1958
The Key	1959	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rr373R676b 1959	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1959
The Key	1960	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	108	Rqr373R676b 1960	Unknown	1960
The Key	1961	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	90	Rr373R676b 1961	Unknown	1961
The Key	1962	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rqr373R676b 1962	Unknown	1962
The Key	1964	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	158	Rqr373R676b 1964	The Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1964
The Key	1967	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	162	Rqr373R676b 1967	Unknown	1967
The Key	1969	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	128	Rr373R676b 1969	Unknown	1969
The Key	1972	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	80	Rr373R676b 1972	Unknown	1972
The Key	1973	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	128	Rr373R676b 1973	Unknown	1973

*MCLS Director's Report – March 2023 (Continued)*

The Key	1974	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	110	Rr373R676b 1974	American Yearbook Co, Minneapolis, MN	1974
The Key	1975	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	116	Rr373R676b 1975	American Yearbook Co, Minneapolis, MN	1975
The Key	1976	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	116	Rr373R676b 1976	American Yearbook Co, Minneapolis, MN	1976
The Key	1977	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	112	Rr373R676b 1977	American Yearbook Co, Minneapolis, MN	1977
The Key	1978	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	112	Rr373R676b 1978	American Yearbook Co, Minneapolis, MN	1978
The Key	1980	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	112	Rr373R676b 1980	American Yearbook Co, Minneapolis, MN	1980
The Key	1982	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	152	Rr373R676b 1982	Unknown	1982
The Key	1983	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	144	Rr373R676b 1983	Jostens Yearbook, Co Minneapolis, MN	1983
The Key	1985	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	119	Rr373R676b 1985	Unknown	1985
The Key	1986	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	124	Rr373R676b 1986	Jostens Yearbook, Co Minneapolis, MN	1986
The Key	1987	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	132	Rr373R676b 1987	Jostens Yearbook, Co Minneapolis, MN	1987
The Key	1988	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	118	Rr373R676b 1988	Unknown	1988
The Key	1991	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rr373R676b 1991	Jostens Yearbook, Co Minneapolis, MN	1991
The Key	1998	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rr373R676b 1998	Jostens Yearbook, Co Minneapolis, MN	1998
The Key	1999	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rr373R676b 1999	Unknown	1999

MCLS Director's Report – March 2023 (Continued)

The Key	2000	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	138	Rr373R676b 2000	Unknown	2000
The Key	2001	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	138	Rr373R676b 2001	Unknown	2001
The Key	1998	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rr373R676b 1998	Jostens Yearbook, Co Minneapolis, MN	1998
The Key	1999	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	104	Rr373R676b 1999	Unknown	1999
The Key	2000	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	138	Rr373R676b 2000	Unknown	2000
The Key	2001	Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester, NY	138	Rr373R676b 2001	Unknown	2001
The Clarion	1905Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	104	Rr373R676ea Jun 1905	Unknown	1905
The Clarion	1906Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	112	Rr373R676ea Jun 1906	Unknown	1906
The Clarion	1907Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	100	Rr373R676ea Jun 1907	Unknown	1907
The Clarion	1908Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	118	Rr 373R676ea Jun 1908	Unknown	1908
The Clarion	1906Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	184	Rr373R676ea Jan 1906	Unknown	1906
The Clarion	1909Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	104	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1909	Unknown	1909
Senior Annual	1910Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	102	Rr373R676ea Jun1910	Unknown	1910
Senior Annual	1912Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	134	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1912	East High School, Rochester, NY	1912
Senior Class Book	1913Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	72	Rqr373R676ea Jan 1913	East High School, Rochester, NY	1913
Senior Class Book	1912Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	49	Rqr373R676ea Jan 1912	East High School, Rochester, NY	1912
Senior Annual	1913Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	128	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1913	East High School, Rochester, NY	1913
Senior Annual	1914Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	140	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1914	East High School, Rochester, NY	1914
Senior Annual	1915Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	178	Rr373R676ea Jun 1915	East High School, Rochester, NY	1915
Senior Class Book	1915Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	48	Rr373R676ea Jan 1915	East High School, Rochester, NY	1915

MCLS Director's Report – March 2023 (Continued)

The Senior Tower	1916Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	84	Rr373R676ea Jan 1916	East High School, Rochester, NY	1916
The Sphinx	1916Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	176	Rr373R676ea Jun 1916	East High School, Rochester, NY	1916
The Orient	1917Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	96	Rr373R676ea Jan 1917	East High School, Rochester, NY	1917
Senior Annual	1917Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	180	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1917	East High School, Rochester, NY	1917
Senior Annual	1918Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	134	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1918	East High School, Rochester, NY	1918
Spotlight	1919Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	76	Rr373R676ea Jan 1919	East High School, Rochester, NY	1919
Senior Annual	1919Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	128	Rr373R676ea Jun 1919	East High School, Rochester, NY	1919
The Colossus	1920Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	100	Rr373R676ea Jan 1920	East High School, Rochester, NY	1920
The Senior Log	1920Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	154	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1920	East High School, Rochester, NY	1920
Janua	1921Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	116	Rr373R676ea Jan 2021	East High School, Rochester, NY	1921
The Orient	1921Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	160	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1921	East High School, Rochester, NY	1921
Janua	1922Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	128	Rr373R676ea Jan 1922	East High School, Rochester, NY	1922
Janua	1923Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	144	Rqr373R676ea Jan 1923	East High School, Rochester, NY	1923
Orient	1923Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	179	Rr373R676ea Jun 1923	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1923
Janua	1924Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	176	Rqr373R676ea Jan 1924	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1924
Orient	1924Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	208	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1924	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1924
Janua	1925Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	160	Rqr373R676ea Jan 1925	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1925
Orient	1925Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	176	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1925	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1925
Janua	1926Jan	East High School Rochester, NY	160	Rqr373R676ea Jan 1926	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1926
Orient	1926Jun	East High School Rochester, NY	160	Rqr373R676ea Jun 1926	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1926
Orient	1927	East High School Rochester, NY	172	Rqr373R676ea 1927	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1927
Orient	1928	East High School Rochester, NY	180	Rqr373R676ea 1928	Du Bois Press, Rochester, NY	1928

*MCLS Director's Report – March 2023 (Continued)*

Misc Rochester City and Sub Directory	Misc	Various pages missing on Jon Palmer project	1,134	41 directories	Polk Directories	various
Total pages	14,505			Total whole books	94	

Social Media

There were two new posts to the *Local History ROCs!* blog in February: “In Honor of Pioneering Black Men from Rochester’s Community: Thank You bobby johnson & Rev. John S. Walker” by McDonald, and “Old to Begin: How a Historic Hotel Became a Home” by Emily Morry. The new posts received 77 views. In addition, readers from 35 countries revisited 181 previously published posts for a total of 3,048 views in February. All posts can be read online at [www.rochistory.wordpress.com](http://www.rochistory.wordpress.com). See Anecdotes/Other (below) for exciting news about the blog this month!

Anecdotes/Other

- The division’s *Local History ROCs!* blog, and specifically three posts on it that were written by Morry, received attention from two major national websites and one local site this month: *History.com* linked to Morry’s 2016 post, “The Kodak City Goes to War: Rochester’s Aerial Photography School” for an article on “How Nations Have Spied from the Sky”: [https://www.history.com/news/aerial-surveillance-spy-devices?cmpid=email-hist-inside-history-2023-0215-02152023&om\\_rid&~campaign=hist-inside-history-2023-0215](https://www.history.com/news/aerial-surveillance-spy-devices?cmpid=email-hist-inside-history-2023-0215-02152023&om_rid&~campaign=hist-inside-history-2023-0215). *AARP.org* linked to, and used photos from, Morry’s 2019 series of posts about the Inner Loop for an article called “Before the Highway: Rochester, New York”: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/getting-around/info-2023/before-the-highway-rochester-martin-pedraza-david-everett.html>. A local website on African American composer R. Nathaniel Dett linked to Morry’s 2022 post on Dett, noting, “You can read a bit about his neighborhood via Emily Morry, PhD, a *fantastic* historian at the Monroe Public Library who has written an excellent blog post about Dett’s life in Rochester on the website of the Library’s Local History & Genealogy Division, Local History ROCs!”: <https://deeperintodett.hcommons.org/2023/02/13/dett-the-rochesterian-cursory-introduction/>.

Upcoming Events/Programs

Saturday, April 15, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, Kusler-Cox Auditorium – Rochester’s Rich History – “Rochester’s Jewish Landmarks: Exploring Rochester’s Jewish History Through the Built Environment,” by Megan Klem.

***Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting***

Reference

During February, RMC handled 628 reference questions and 306 non-reference transactions for a total of 934.

Circulation

In February, RMC rented 6 pieces of equipment, 240 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,324 items or 31% of the Central Library’s total circulation of 13,978 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added).

**\*\*When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC circulated 8,920 items! \*\***

Programs/Tours/AV setups

Our First Friday Film was “Farewell Amor”

#### Black Film Festival:

2023 is the first year of the Black Film Festival and while the audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive, the attendance figure was low. The festival was promoted heavily by FFRPL, in City Newspaper, on the library website, and Facebook. The Graphics Department created a wonderful brochure for the event. But none of this translated into the attendance numbers we would like to have seen. Next year will be different, as we learn from our first attempts. Diane Gardner did a wonderful job pulling this festival together including input from patrons; Bob Scheffel did a wonderful job researching facts about the individual films. The audience was very appreciative of our efforts. Mayor Malik Evans opened the festival on the first day.

#### ***Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting***

##### Personnel

Darlene Richards, Division Manager for Science, History & Social Sciences, who had been on long-term leave, has officially retired from the library as of February 24, with 24 ½ years of service. Richards served in the Literature, Business, and Science Divisions during her career. Gabe Pellegrino continues as Science Division Manager. The Science staff continues to make schedule adjustments, work extra hours, and use substitutes until the Division is fully staffed.

##### Programs

- 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: *Eating Disorders in a Global Pandemic*.
- *NASA History: 60 Years of Discovery* was on Saturday, February 11. This was the first program in the Space Program series: Eclipse 2024 with NASA Ambassador Jim Porter. The attendees were all engaged and asked great questions

##### Tax Preparation

- Florence Morris has completed her work in making the 2022 Federal Internal Revenue Service (in English and Spanish) and New York State tax forms available to the public, now on display.
- The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) has returned to the Central Library on BLB 3 to offer in-person assistance to people for them to file their tax returns. This is a welcome return after two years of being available virtually only, due to COVID. This program is held every Wednesday through April 12, 2023. Federal and State Income Taxes. more popular each week. Many thanks to Ricky Perez in Maintenance for his help in setting up the area used for this service, and many thanks to Corinne Clar and Kristin Spath in the Graphics Department for their excellent work with the flyers to help promote the NYS TAP program.

##### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

A teacher/library media specialist from the Warsaw Middle-High School contacted Morris with a book list of a total of forty-eight books that are in the collection of the Science, History and Social Sciences Division to have them pulled from the shelves, checked out, and ready for the teacher to be able to come into the Central Library to pick up the books. The teacher lives in Henrietta, New York, and can use her Monroe County Library card. Many thanks to Chad Cunningham and his staff in the Circulation Department for checking out all the books ahead of time so that they were all ready for the teacher. This is the third year Morris has worked with this teacher.

Morris continued in February to work with an elderly patron who sends in book lists related to the subject of aviation. The book list in February included eight titles. For one of the titles, an Interlibrary Loan request had

been submitted since this one book was older and not owned by any of the public libraries in the Monroe County Library System.

LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors were up to about 55 this month, a high number considering several cancellations. The new counseling service/support group offered on Wednesdays is starting to pick up visitors.

Displays

Love your Library month display



Facebook Statistics: February 2023

- Gardening Club: 175 Members (3 new members)  
4 Posts, 1 Comment, 13 Reactions  
Total Engagements: 18
- Cooking Club: 152 Members  
3 Posts, 3 Comments, 21 Reactions  
Total Engagements: 27

***Technology Center, Ginger Brewer and Cynthia Dana reporting***

Programs

- Ginger Brewer has been able to collaborate with the Arnett Library to continue the computer tutor program. Brewer has been working consistently with patrons in a classroom setting to ensure they are getting the digital skills they need. Brewer's main goal is to help those who are not tech savvy to feel comfortable with operating computers, cell phones, and other devices daily.
- The Technology Center staff has been doing a wonderful job assisting patrons with their cell phone and laptop issues during the month. Staff educated on the importance of not downloading multiple cleaning

apps for cell phones, keeping on top of updates, and other things to keep the device working properly. Though some issues required a little more time, the staff never turned anyone away and assured the patron was comfortable and fully understood the lessons that the staff taught them. All patrons were able to get their issues resolved.

- The Technology Center has been offering classes of various types. They have found it easier to plan their classes around patrons' needs rather than plan something ahead of time. They keep track of the more complex questions and set a time for several patrons to come in at once and learn a new skill. This will begin in March.
- The classroom in Tech Center has been used by Rochester Works to work with patrons who are doing job searches and applications. Leroy Banks has established himself and his staff in Tech Center and has helped many get back into the workforce. This partnership is beneficial to so many.

### Anecdotes/Other

- Ginger Brewer had the pleasure of assisting a local advocate. The woman that Brewer assisted is the mother of a young man who wandered off from school one day and then later met a tragic end. The young man was diagnosed with Autism. The mother was at the library applying to government agencies to make her organization tax-exempt. Since her son's tragedy, she has been working diligently to help those who may have been diagnosed with Autism and other conditions to become more independent in the home setting. Brewer listened to her story and then helped her locate the forms that were sent to her email to get the process going. The mother stated to Brewer,  
*"It is people like you and others at the library that make me realize that I can never stop advocating and keeping my son's legacy alive. I am so grateful for all of you."*
- There is a regular patron in the Tech Center who has been homeless consistently for the past forty years. Before Amy Shropshire began updating the resource list for our homeless patrons, she chatted with this patron extensively one evening. During the conversation, the focus was on many of the patron's recommended local food resources for the homeless, which places offered the friendliest service, and where shelter can be found in an emergency. Also discussed was the efficacy and history of various twelve-step programs. While this may be an unconventional way to communicate with patrons, Shropshire finds that speaking to patrons about their lives and sharing stories enables them to not only glean resources to pass on to other patrons, but also to discover what resources are the most in-demand and necessary, and how to streamline the process of obtaining the most necessary resources. This patron is an asset, as are many of our patrons, each with their unique experiences, connections, and skills.

### ***Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting***

#### E-sports

The esports team received their Farmcraft II prizes this month. It was a skin to be used in Minecraft. The team also hosted the 585Fighterz vs AGN esports tournament. Former Teen Center regular Max was able to win his matchup very easily for AGN, while former Library employee Yusef lost his Mortal Kombat matchup. The team is starting to work on producing their first video game utilizing Unreal Engine 5, which was the first software installed on all esports computers.

#### Black History Month

After the CLL vs RPD event, the RPD agreed to be the subject of our Black History Month posters this year. Check out the results hanging on the Teen Center windows:



Glowforge

Visitors on a school field trip were able to get picture puzzles made on the Glowforge.



Programs

- Girls Who Code: New students joined the program this month. Faezah Jahanshiri has been running this program for a year and a half now. The Girls Who Code organization awarded our club another \$500 grant money. They've added Jahanshiri to their advisory board, and she's now connected to all Girls Who Code teachers/facilitators nationwide.
- Learn on Udemy: Patrons have registered and learned how to open a free Udemy account. They are provided information, instructions, and an overview of the certification courses Amazon offers through Udemy.
- Sewing classes: People seem to enjoy learning how to sew and socialize with each other. Per their request, 4 more seats will be available, and we will offer the class every week, starting in April.

*MCLS Director's Report – March 2023 (Continued)*

- Black History Month Trivia: Students from School without Walls provided twenty prompts about inventors, abolitionists, entertainers, authors, etc. They divided themselves into teams and each team earned points by guessing the person the prompt was describing.
- FAFSA Fest: Janee Slade, College Access Program Director for The Rochester Education Foundation, hosted a two-day drop-in event in Teen Central. Families received assistance with FAFSA completion, scholarships, student loan counseling, scholarship assistance, and college essay writing. All these resources helped parents and students overcome college access barriers.
- Craft and Chat: Teens were able to relax and make beautiful, beaded accessories while discussing our favorite fashion houses and what employment opportunities are available outside of models and designers. There was a lot of talent and the table! This was also an awesome time to bond with our new Safe to Be Smart mentor, Lindsey Bradley.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Banks met with Pathways to Peace officers to discuss the uptick in violence in the Dewey Ave area and how the violence displayed is performed by young people. We discussed safe spaces for those looking for support.

Anecdotes/Other

Jahanshiri helped one of our teens to get back to school this month. He is a bright kid with a GPA of 4.5 and less than 6 credits to graduate. He has faced a lot of adversity in his life, first living with his grandmother, then with his mom in another state until an abusive situation caused him to return to Rochester. A social worker who visits Teen Central was contacted and she responded the same day. The teenager reported back that he is very happy to be back at school. 😊