Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building
March 18, 2024, 5:00 PM
Agenda

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS
   Corcoran

II. ACTION ITEMS
   1. Minutes of prior Meeting
      Corcoran page 3
   2. Claims
      Hasselwander page 9

III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS
   1. Liaison to Rochester Public Library Board
      Stockman
   2. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council
      Knapp
   3. Friends and Foundation of the RPL
      Borgus
   4. Staff Reports
      a. Director’s Report
         Uttaro page 11
      b. MCLS Services
         Smathers page 11
      c. Central Library Services
         Clasper page 18

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting:
Monday, April 15, 5:00 p.m.
Rundel Memorial Library Building
MCLS Trustees Present: Gary Brandt, Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Emily Hessney Lynch, Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly, Erick Stephens, Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)

MCLS Trustees Excused: Peter Knapp, Mack Smith

RPL Trustees Present: Katherine Baynes, Donna Benjamin, Glenn Gardner, James Kraus, Karen Soanes, Suzanne Stockman, Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: Ellen Brenner, Alinda Drury, Daniel Karin, Sharon Salluzzo (observed online)

Staff and Guests: FFRPL Executive Director, Donna Borgus; County Law Liaison, Don Crumb; City Council Liaison, Mitch Gruber; staff members Emily Clasper, Brie Harrison, Katy Hasselwander, Melanie Lewis, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order
Mr. Corcoran called the MCLS Board meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Ms. Benjamin called the RPL Board meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments
There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to address the boards.

Introduction
Ms. Uttaro introduced Katy Hasselwander as the new Manager of Library Finances. Ms. Hasselwander gave a brief introduction and thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

MCLS ACTIONS

MCLS Meeting Minutes
The minutes from the January 22, 2024, meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

MCLS Claims
Ms. Harrison reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. In response to a question about the cost of CARL, she explained that the costs are negotiated in our contract with them. She added that we are approaching the time when it is appropriate for us to issue an RFP for cataloging services, however, there are not many companies in the market able to support a system the size of MCLS. Ms.
Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the claims from January 2024 as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**JOINT ACTIONS**

**Proposed FY25 Central Library Budget**
Ms. Harrison reviewed the item with everyone and offered to answer questions. She explained the budget was reviewed in detail and endorsed by the joint RPL & MCLS Finance Committee on February 15.

Mr. Stephens joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

RPL trustee, Mr. Kraus MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2024-25 Central Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS trustee, Ms. Shelly MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2024-25 Central Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Endorsement for Use of Fund Balance**
As part of the Central Budget discussion, Ms. Harrison explained that the library would like to use some of the MCLS Fund balance to support the next year of MiFi lending. This past year was funded by the City of Rochester from year-end surplus funds. Given that the MiFi units are lent throughout the county it is appropriate for MCLS to provide funding. She added that the e-Rate program is likely to reinstate MiFi units as an eligible expense which would provide funding in the future. She also noted that loaning MiFis is not a permanent solution, and the County is working on a broadband program for all residents.

The MCLS Trustees unanimously endorsed the use of the fund balance to pay for MiFis.

**County Historian Services Agreement and Extension**
Ms. Uttaro explained the item is amended to remove the recommendation of Dr. Finn as County Historian. The amended action is to “endorse the County Historian IMA extension.” She presented the item to the Boards and offered to answer questions. There was a brief discussion about the size and organization of the collection.

MCLS trustee, Mr. Brandt MADE A MOTION to endorse the County Historian IMA extension. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL trustee, Ms. Benjamin MADE A MOTION to endorse the County Historian IMA extension. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RPL ACTIONS**

**RPL Meeting Minutes**
The minutes from the January 31, 2024, meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.
RPL Personnel Changes
Ms. Uttaro reviewed the personnel changes for January 8, 2024–February 9, 2024, and offered to answer questions. Mr. Gardner MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL Financial Reports
Ms. Harrison reviewed the financial reports with the trustees and offered to answer questions. In response to a question about retiree medical, she explained that the city has been a bit conservative in recent years because retirees can change their options each year and it’s difficult to predict the costs. Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to approve the financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Proposed FY25 Community Library Budget
Ms. Harrison reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. She explained the budget was reviewed in detail and endorsed by the RPL Finance Committee on February 15. She highlighted that for the last 2 years, the city has not asked us to make any cuts in the Community Library Budget.

Ms. Uttaro added that she is asking the mayor’s office and city council for some additional funding outside of the Community Budget to support the Raising a Reader program. The most recent funding for the program came from a private donor and is now ending.

Dr. Soanes MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2024–25 Community Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rundel First Floor Early Closing
Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item and offered to answer questions. Mr. Kraus MADE A MOTION to approve closing the first floor of the Rundel Memorial Building at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024, to accommodate the set-up for the Greentopia Annual Gala. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Acceptance of 2024 Tummonds Funds
Ms. Uttaro presented the item to the trustees. Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to accept the Tummonds fund allocation of $88,390.58. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recognition for Ms. Harrison
Ms. Benjamin thanked Ms. Harrison for her time and dedication and wished her well in her new role as the Capital Projects Manager.

Liaison Reports
Ms. Benjamin pointed out that due to the joint meeting, everyone has the minutes of both boards’ previous meetings, therefore liaison reports were not needed. She offered to answer any questions.

Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) Liaison
Ms. Borgus reported that last year the total amount distributed from the Tummonds Fund was $285,333 to 62 libraries which supported over 12,000 circulating books. This year, the total allocation is $747,169. MCLS libraries will receive $544,896.
Director’s Report
Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She drew everyone’s attention to the 1-page report on eclipse activities and thanked Ms. Smathers for putting the report together.

She reported that she has been working with city staff and outside counsel on two different lawsuits related to the costs to the city and the library when dealing with opioid use. She reminded everyone that there have been several overdoses at Central and one was fatal. Library staff are also working with the Rochester Police Department to address drugs found hidden in the library which indicates there could be sales happening.

Next, she reported that she has consulted with the NYS Division of Library Development on behalf of RPL Board President Benjamin and they will draft the legislation needed to implement a change for the RPL Board increasing their trustees from eleven to fifteen.

In response to a question, Ms. Benjamin reported that there are three responses to the Director’s Search RFP. Once the deadline passes, the Committee will review the responses and an offer will be sent to the selected firm.

MCLS Services
Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She read a statement that has been prepared for the press regarding the distribution of eclipse glasses. Glasses will be limited to library card holders and are being tracked.

She reported that a sprinkler-head malfunction has destroyed the children’s collection at the Rush Public Library. The MCLS Office has been offering support and is waiting to hear what is needed. The computers have been removed from the library and LAS is supporting them with the offer of a mobile lab of six computers and a printer when they are ready.

Central Library
Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that the eclipse planning at the Central Library is going well, and staff are preparing for what will undoubtedly be a very long and busy day. Ms. Stockman suggested to everyone that they write a journal entry about the eclipse experience since future generations may be interested in our thoughts and feelings on this rare event.

Community Libraries
Ms. Lewis thanked Ms. Mansour for her work compiling statistics every month. She pointed out that it is a big job that Ms. Mansour handles well. While compiling January statistics, she brought to management’s attention significant increases in library card registrations at Arnett, Lincoln, Monroe, and Winton Branches.

Next, she thanked Ms. Borgus and FFRPL for a significant amount of money used to support a Black History Month Program at the Sully Branch. George Carter put the program together and it ended up drawing in over 200 people. She then read a Customer Service postcard she received from a patron praising the event and Mr. Carter.

Other Business
Mr. Brandt suggested trustees do a joint board lunch or cocktail hour. He also asked to get group photos of the boards for a project at his grandson’s grammar school.
Adjournment
Mr. Gardner MADE A MOTION to adjourn the RPL meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, and the meeting was adjourned at .m.

Mr. Stevens MADE A MOTION to adjourn the MCLS meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, and the meeting was adjourned at .m.

Patricia Uttaro, MCLS Secretary
Debi Mansour on behalf of Daniel Karin, RPL Secretary
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TO: MCLS Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: March 18, 2024
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–March 2024

Report & Discussion Items

*MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting*

**Recommended Reading & Viewing**

- Meet the Woman Who Helped Libraries Across the U.S. “Surf the Internet”
- Beyond ADA Compliance - [https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2024/03/01/beyond-ada-compliance/](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2024/03/01/beyond-ada-compliance/)

*MCLS Member Libraries

*Jennifer Smathers reporting*

**Chili Public Library**

CPL-on-the-Go! visited the St. Pius Tenth School Open House and gave each child a free book courtesy of the Friends of the Chili Public Library.

**Fairport Public Library**

Renowned local author, Ellen Stoll Walsh, visited Fairport for a special program where she read her popular titles *Mouse Paint* and *Mouse Count*. She also demonstrated how she created the adorable mice in her illustrations. Stoll Walsh is a local author, and the mice from her books are immortalized in a bronze sculpture located outside the library.

**Gates Public Library**

Gates extends a special thank you to Taylor and Gryffin from A Confident Dog who helped them celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day. Attendees also got to see the display of a bookmark collection owned by a staff member who has been collecting since she was 10 years old.
Greece Public Library
Entries for a free giveaway of John Grisham’s A Time for Mercy required comments about the library. The longest comment was, “My girls are growing up so fast and their interests are constantly changing. I love how I can keep up with them by borrowing books rather than constantly buying new books, having them interested for a week, and then having them sit there and collect dust! They also love playing in the Story Garden, which makes me happy because it's a free, safe place for them to hang out. The activities available are perfect for engaging their imaginations, while also being educational.” The winner commented, “Like the library for its way of bringing people together through books [and] knowledge.” Teens were also winners with their Valentine's Gnome painting projects.

Hamlin Public Library
The Dino program was so engaging that Hamlin had to run it twice in one day. Coloring, and digging for fossils, Legos, and plastic dinosaurs kept the small paleontologists busy.

Henrietta Public Library
Libraries have so many amazing resources for people to use. Sometimes it is hard to figure out how to get to us. People may not have access to a car, can't drive, or just don't want to deal with the traffic. Henrietta has begun reminding patrons that they can make it into the library with RTS's On Demand service.

Irondequoit Public Library
Town Supervisor Andrae Evans joined Irondequoit earlier this week for his first-ever Storytime with the Supervisor. He read Change Sings by Amanda Gorman to a group of very excited kids!

Mendon Public Library
A patron commented about Mendon’s Giant Connect Four game. “You have created such fun, vibrant spaces at MPL. Thanks!”

Newman Riga Library
Riga’s roadside book drop is back in service. Thanks are due to the Town of Riga, especially the folks at the Highway Department, for repairing it.

Ogden Farmers’ Library
Ogden held a “Cutest Pet” contest and Declyn, Lewis, and Pipp are officially the cutest pets in Ogden! Olivia, River, Quint, Almond, and Chewie were runners-up. You can find all these adorable animals featured on bookmarks at Ogden during March. Every single pet featured in the contest was adorable!

Parma Public Library
Parma collected patron comments during Love Your Library Month which included “My favorite things about the library are all of the wonderful programs that are offered, the diverse books I have been introduced to, and everyone who works there is so kind! Thank you!!” Parma’s new Library of
Things includes portable sound machines with six different sounds, including thunder, ocean, brook, summer night (crickets), rain, and white noise. Most Library of Things items can be checked out for 3 weeks.

**Penfield Public Library**
Penfield recognizes that community is what gives the library life, and they are fortunate to have developed many wonderful relationships with patrons, so it is hard when they lose someone.
In 2023, longtime patron David Thomas passed away. Penfield staff have many memories of Mr. Thomas that make them smile. Staff report that they often listened with mouths agape to stories of his life that they were certain belonged in a movie. They fondly remember his near-daily visits to PPL to, among other things, get caught up on current events via the newspapers. In light of this, the Thomas family has generously provided funds for a newspaper reading area. They very much miss Mr. Thomas and having this lovely newspaper area is a welcome, sweet reminder of their friend. Penfield and MCLS join the Thomas family in the hope that many more patrons will enjoy reading at the library as much as Mr. Thomas did.

**Pittsford Community Library**
Mo Willem’s Elephant and Piggie visited the library and starred in a Facebook Reel. They even found Pigeon in the library, although he was not driving a bus. [https://www.facebook.com/reel/285406117605813](https://www.facebook.com/reel/285406117605813). They weren’t the only guests at Pittsford this month. The Black Students Union at Eastman School of Music performed a repertoire of music in celebration of Black History Month.

**Rush Public Library**
On February 26, the Rush Library Children’s Room was damaged by a sprinkler pipe malfunction inside the ceiling that soaked through insulation and ceiling tiles onto bookcases, books, carpets, and into their meeting room. Much of the children’s book collection was lost and the library closed while staff met with insurance adjusters and the space was cleaned up and dried.

On February 29, the library reopened with limited services. Currently, there are no children’s books, teen books, DVDs, or access to the meeting room. The entire adult book collection is available, and patrons can place holds to receive items from other libraries. Short-term solutions to provide books to children are underway. Some classes and events are being postponed; others are being moved to new locations. Rush staff and trustees extend heartfelt thanks for all the support received from the community and MCLS.

**Scottsville Free Library**
Scottsville displayed beautiful antique and vintage valentines during February, which nicely complemented their “take & make” Valentine’s Day craft.

**Webster Public Library**
Happy 20th Anniversary to the library's Sit & Stitch group! This special group meets every Monday in the library from 3:30-5 pm. Interested in checking it out? Bring your knitting (or crocheting, tatting, needlepoint,
lap quilting—whatever you’re stitching at present) and your questions and they’ll help you get started!

**MCLS Office Updates**

*Jennifer Smathers reporting*

Languages Other Than English (Lote) 4 Kids: MCLS added a collection of digital books for kids in world languages, created for children to enjoy books and learn languages through storytelling in 65+ languages with English translations. This product was tested by the Central Children’s Center last year and is now available throughout the system. See it at [https://lote4kids.com/us-monroe-county-library-system/](https://lote4kids.com/us-monroe-county-library-system/) Many member libraries announced the launch of Lote4kids on their social media accounts. This addition relates to the MCLS strategic objective of adding diversity to library collections.

Jennifer Smathers and Alicia Gunther attended Library Advocacy Day in Albany, along with 6 other representatives from MCLS member libraries.

On February 18 Gunther and various MCLS member library staff hosted an MCLS table at an Amerks hockey game promoting library services and celebrating the wrap-up of the Amerks Reading Power Play. This year MCLS had over 1,200 Reading Hat Trick entry forms submitted to the system and over 670 people attended story times with Amerks hockey players at MCLS member libraries.

The first Understanding Antisemitism book discussion kicked off on February 20 via Zoom with 25 attendees. Gunther and other MCLS member library staff supported the facilitator in hosting discussions about the book and current events in the Middle East. Overall, the program went well. The next book discussion is scheduled for April 16.

**Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting**

**OWLS Senior Services Fair**

Maren Kyle and Wes Becker attended a resource fair at the weekly OWLS meeting. OWLS stands for "Older Wiser Learning Seniors" and is a volunteer-run group that provides fitness, lunch, and activities for area seniors. They shared resources regarding the outreach department’s programs for seniors, including the Memory Care collection, home delivery program, and the NYS Talking Books and Braille Library. It was also a great opportunity to network with some local providers of other services for seniors.

**In-Home Library Service**

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 15 in-home patrons:
- 13 patrons received a home delivery of library materials (187 items total)
- 2 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (39 titles total)
- 2 reference packets mailed to in-home patrons.

**Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service**

- 14 library stations served.
- 1004 items distributed.
- Special requests were filled for 9 sites.
Corrections and Reentry Support

- Jail Presentation: On February 16, Kyle and Becker delivered a presentation regarding local library and reentry services to a group of 7 women from the Monroe County Jail in an adult female GED class.
- Outreach staff fulfilled 12 requests for physical “Making Moves” reentry resource packets.
- “Making Moves” webpage received 39 total pageviews.

Other Outreach

- Outreach librarians resumed monthly visits to Lifespan senior day programs where they listen to a short story read by Levar Burton and then discuss it.
  - Lily Café: *Chivalry* by Neil Gaiman, 7 participants
  - Wolk Café: *The Lighthouse Keeper* by Daisy Johnson, 15 participants
- Provided copies of book club titles in multiple formats to support book club programming at senior living facilities:
  - Valley Manor: *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich, 15 copies
  - Ashley Woods: *Evening Class* by Maeve Binchy, 9 copies

Interlibrary Loan
Lending: Requests Received- 697; Requests Filled- 241
Borrowing: Requests Received- 42; Requests Filled- 39

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- The Children’s Center celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day with a visit from Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, an appearance by book characters Elephant and Piggie, and an ice cream party. Families listened to the County Executive read *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems before making puppets, playing Elephant & Piggie Toss Across, signing up for new library cards, and making their own ice cream sundaes. Children’s Center Staff worked with Teen Central staff to identify youth willing to work the event in the costumes. The youth were paid as visiting artists and did a phenomenal job! Rochester’s Imagination Library volunteers also were on hand to sign families up to participate in their program.
• The Children’s Center celebrated the Global Day of Play with indoor play stations including making paper snowmen, digging in magic snow, and a snowball toss. Healthi-Kids provided funding to purchase snacks and sensory toys that were used for the event and can be used for future programs.

• Mighty Muslim Mountains Youth Program came to talk about the eclipse and children were able to learn about the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies.

• Middle school students from Fairport, Pittsford, and Webster schools visited the Rundel building for a Mock Newberry discussion and vote. After their discussion they embarked on a scavenger hunt designed by children’s staff that included clues in every division of both library buildings to highlight Black History Month.

• Chelsea Galvin of Music Together Flower City led a very successful music class for families. KatiePowell continued offering a weekly storytime with a related activity. Participants assembled a giant felt pizza in one session, practicing vocabulary, sequencing, and counting. In another session, kids read the story A Good Place, which follows four insects as they look for their perfect home. Children then assembled their own insect, which gave them the opportunity to talk with their caregiver about the "good place" their insects would live.

• Powell also continued Pediatric Links to the Community visits, in which resident physicians from University of Rochester visit the library and learn about library resources and services.
Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Children’s staff participated in a Sensory Storytime training, learning how to make storytimes more inclusive. Staff was also able to visit Irondequoit Library and learn about the ways they’ve made their building more accessible.

- Tonia Burton attended a webinar from Ed Trust NY on The Science of Reading. Several Rochester organizations were present at the meeting. Burton hosted a meeting of those interested in forming a local group and also met with WNY Literacy Initiative Director Tarja Settles to discuss the landscape of reading programs, particularly programs based on the Science of Reading. Settles shared what is happening in Buffalo and other areas of the state. Burton met with Dr. Heidi Beverine-Curry from the Reading League in Syracuse. The mission of the Reading League is to advance the awareness, understanding, and use of evidence-aligned reading instruction. They have an educational background in reading; other organizations, such as the WNY Literacy and Teach My Kid to Read, are parent driven. As a result of Burton’s participation, MCLS will host a professional development session for staff given by The Reading League on April 10. That evening, community members will be invited to a session geared toward parents & caregivers.

- Margarita Chaves visited School #33 for Global Read Aloud Day. She read to a class of bilingual kindergartners.

Anecdotes/Other

- The Father Tracy Center began providing social services in the Children’s Center in February. We have staff in the library on Mondays and Fridays with someone available on-call during library hours. The
word is spreading that this service is available. Father Tracy Center staff have been able to offer food bags to a few families. They also assisted two teens with coats and shelter.

- Former Raising a Reader AmeriCorps Member Toshia Mitchell brought her fifth-grade class to visit the Central Library to get library cards. Miranda Hazen showed them how to use library resources for their school reports. It was great to have our AmeriCorps member back and see her in her role as a teacher.

Raising A Reader
Tonia Burton and Margarita Chaves were interviewed by Raising a Reader National for training on “The Importance of Diverse Books.” They were asked a series of questions about our local program and how diverse books impact our community. Burton also interviewed Ida Perez, Ibero’s early Childcare Director, to ask her how the diverse books from Raising a Reader have made an impact on the families they serve in their program. All three testimonies were used in a national training held in February.

Central Library Updates
Emily Clasper reporting

- Emily Clasper was accompanied by her son, Robert D’Orso, for NYLA’s annual Advocacy Day events in Albany. Robert, who is 18, is a lifelong library advocate who has attended these events for many years. He plans to pursue a career in government, so he uses the opportunity to gain advocacy experience while helping champion a cause he believes in. On the day before Advocacy Day, they networked with library staff, directors, trustees, and supporters from across the state, discussing library funding and legislation that supports the operation of libraries of all types. As always, it was interesting to learn more about the things being done by libraries in other areas of the state and talk about strategies to work together for our common interests. On the day of the event, they visited several legislators representing areas of
Monroe County, making the case for library funding and programs that support our goals.

- Clasper joined the City Opioid Team, along with Amy Discenza from Branch Administration. This team is tasked with looking at ways in which money awarded as part of a State settlement for Opioid compensation can best be used to support City efforts to combat the impacts of Opioid abuse in our community. The team includes members from the Mayor’s Office, City Council, the Rochester Police Department, the Rochester Fire Department, Department of Environmental Services, Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, City Planning, the Person in Crisis Team, the Pathways to Peace program, and the Libraries. In the first phase of the project, the team is gathering information about opioid use impacts in the city, assessing the possible areas where funding could be used to address these impacts, and gathering information from stakeholders about needs and potential uses for this funding.

- A lovely post featuring the Central Library Reading Garden appeared on the Explore Rochester Instagram feed. It is wonderful to see our libraries featured so often on social media as “hidden gems” within our city.

- Clasper met with CASH Director Yversha Roman to discuss the future use of the Bausch and Lomb fourth-floor space for their tax prep program. Roman was extremely complimentary of the library staff, citing their ongoing willingness to help CASH clients and volunteers whenever they can. She was pleased with the success of the partnership and expressed an interest in continuing to grow the relationship with Central in the future. Clasper and Roman discussed the space requirements of CASH at great length and will be working together to ensure that everyone has the tools they need to continue the success of the program.

- Clasper met with University of Rochester Dean of Libraries Kevin Garewal to discuss potential future collaborations on author talks, technology programming, and partnerships with the UR iZone interns. While nothing has been planned yet, it looks like there are many opportunities for us to join forces in the coming year to benefit both the University and the local community.

**Arts/Literature, Melissa Manczuk reporting**

**Programs**

- The Arts Division hosted three programs led by Sew Green Rochester.
  - In the first, participants learned how to crochet the Granny Square, one of the most iconic patterns and an excellent way for new crocheters to practice their skills. They also branched out into more complex squares with attendees who were a bit more advanced.
  - The second program, Beginning Knitting, welcomed Colleen Fogarty, who taught the group several basic knitting techniques.
  - The third Sew Green Rochester program was taught by Jane Beck, who gave everyone a hands-on opportunity to learn hand embroidery techniques, from the running stitch to web roses.
• Jen Case and Rochester Writes gave an online creative writing workshop focusing on honing stories and strengthening your technique. Activities were designed to help participants develop strategies to generate new ideas, revise existing projects, and establish effective writing practices.
• The weekly “Poetry Oasis” program led by local poet and teacher Kitty Jospe continues to draw a regular group of participants. Each week they read and discuss a variety of poems, giving people an opportunity to slow down and appreciate the poetry in a relaxing setting.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

Outreach/Meetings/Training
• Jennifer Byrnes presented to the MBA students at St. John Fisher University’s Entrepreneurship and Innovation class.
• Byrnes presented to the latest Food Future Co. cohort based out of NYC. Food Future is an accelerator for food-related businesses.
• Byrnes served on a panel for The Commissary’s Food Biz 101 series to discuss revenue streams.
• Byrnes and Melissa Cobo met with Conor Martin, Rokele Mikell-Castillo, and Mark Wilson of Monroe County Planning and Development to discuss loan programs for businesses and future programs with BIC.
• Byrnes met with Chelsea Arnold of the Children’s Center to discuss the ALA/FINRA grant (American Library Association/Financial Regulatory Authority) the division received titled Thinking Money for Kids. Programs will take place in the summer.
• Byrnes met with Ginny Sterpka, the director of the Libraries as Launchpads program. They discussed Byrnes developing a short course on cannabis entrepreneurship and Byrnes serving on their advisory board. The Libraries as Launchpads Advisory Council is brought together to envision the future of libraries as accessible launchpads for community member growth. Established by Creative Startups, the council offers guidance on advancing the Libraries as Launchpads initiative. Collectively, council members formulate a shared vision and advocate for libraries as the creative economy hubs of the future.

Consulting
• Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 60
• The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
  o In person: 1
  o Email: 21
  o Mail: 2
  o Phone: 1
  o Zoom: 5
• 3D Printer: 3
• Webpage views: 36
MCLS Director’s Report—March 2024 (Continued)

- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 18

Database Usage Statistics
- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 18; Value: $75,050
- IBISWorld: Page views: 114; Value: $30,335
- InnovationQ: Logins: 17; Searches: 120
- Mintel: Sessions: 10; Page views: 6; Downloads: 1
- PitchBook: Logins: 26
- Statista: Page views: 17; Downloads: 6

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics
- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 0
- New Borrowers- 242
- RRLC Access Cards Issued- 11
- Notarial Acts- 146

Anecdotes
Tax season is upon us and Circulation staff spent quite a bit of time in February helping patrons print documents they needed for their appointments with CASH. This involved helping patrons figure out how to e-mail documents and screen shots from their phones.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs
- In February, the Local History & Genealogy Division partnered with seven MCLS town libraries to co-sponsor an online panel discussion with the creative team behind the recently published In This Moment chapbook featuring Melanie Funchess. The discussion included Funchess, essayist Quajay Donnell, and photographer Natalia Lauer. It was moderated by Amanda Chestnut, curator of the chapbook series published by Visual Studies Workshop. The program, hosted by the Henrietta Library via Zoom, was well attended, and very well received. RPL has been a funder for In This Moment since the first issue.

Exhibitions
- Partners Clarissa Street Legacy and Teen Empowerment opened the Clarissa Uprooted exhibit in the Rundel 2nd-floor gallery on February 21. It will be open to the public from 3 to 7:30 pm on Wednesdays, 12 to 4 pm on Saturdays, and by appointment through the end of the year.
- Funky Turns 50: Black Character Revolution Firsts opened in the Local History Exhibit Hall, 2nd floor, Rundel Memorial Building. A traveling poster exhibit created by Loreen Williamson
and Pamela Thomas, co-founders and co-curators of the Museum of UnCut Funk (https://museumofuncutfunk.com/), the exhibit features animation art of the first positive representations of Black characters to appear in televised American cartoons. It will be on display through June 30. This program featured an in-depth discussion with Loreen Williamson and Pamela Thomas, co-founders and co-curators of the Museum of UnCut Funk, a virtual museum that celebrates Black history and culture from the 1970s. Williamson and Thomas were joined by Emmy-nominated animation producer, director, and storyboard artist Dennis Woodyard to explore the impact and legacy of the first positive Black animation characters to appear on American television. The program was offered in conjunction with the Funky Turns 50 exhibition, which was mounted in the division this month. See the Exhibitions section for details.

• Sheila Pietrowski worked in conjunction with community partners from the Asian/Pacific Islander/American Association to create a table display about the Lunar New Year.

Outreach/Meetings/Training
• In partnership with RIT Press and the RIT Department of History, the library launched the first digital edition of the Rochester History journal and held a well-attended launch party in February. The digital edition includes all the content in the print edition plus supplemental interactive digital content. To subscribe, visit https://press.rit.edu/search-results-grid/?series=rochester-history-journal.
• Christine Ridarsky and Antoine McDonald were guests on a Black History Month-focused show on WXXI 1370 AM’s Connections with Evan Dawson on February 5. The duo discussed various local Black history landmarks and the library’s Archive of Black History & Culture. The show was recorded and can be heard at https://www.wxxinews.org/show/connections/2024-02-05/previewing-the-rochester-public-librarys-new-archive-of-black-history-culture.
• Ridarsky served as a guest instructor for two courses at St. John Fisher University. In a course on Mapping Urban Renewal, taught by Mark Rice, she hosted a guided research session at the City’s Municipal Archives & Records Center (similar to a session she taught in January). For Anthony Siracusa’s Mapping the Social Gospel course, she discussed resources available to students through the library and various other print and digital sources.
MCLS Director’s Report—March 2024 (Continued)

- Ridarsky and Michelle Finn hosted a meeting (via Zoom) of the Monroe County municipal historians to discuss ideas for commemorating the upcoming semi quincentennial of the American Revolution (“Rev250”) and to explore possibilities for countywide collaboration around this anniversary.
- Emily Morry was interviewed by Andrew Bonacci, a photojournalism student at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Bonacci and his classmates are doing a project on the Inner Loop that they intend to publish online at the end of the semester. Morry provided historical expertise on the topic.
- Ridarsky continues to represent the city on the Rochester Museum & Science Center’s Collections Committee and attended one meeting of that group.
- Ridarsky met with seven additional community partners and/or researchers to discuss various projects this month: James Hall (and colleagues), RIT (co-hosting Victor Luckerson talk at the library in April); Michael Oberg, SUNY Geneseo (Rev 250 and student internships); Tim Kneeland, Nazareth University (student internships); Barbara Lowe, St. John Fisher University (history of parks and playgrounds); Kevin Kelley, Rochester Planning department (1911 and 2034 city plans); Ted Forsythe and Mallory Szymaski (death of Denise Hawkins and archiving oral histories); and Holly Watson and Madeline Freidler, Livingston County Historian’s Office (transferring records).
- Mitch Gruber’s Local Government class from the University of Rochester visited the division in February to learn about primary sources and explore some of the unique materials available at the library. The students will be researching topics of their choice about local history and local government and were eager to engage with the staff to identify potential resources they might use for their projects.

Special Collections
- Working under a New York State Documentary Heritage Program Implementation Grant, contract archivist Stephanie Ball accessioned 93 of the library’s approximate 535 un-accessioned collections in February. Brandon Fess completed one finding aid this month, for the papers of politician and former Monroe County Historian George Lusk.
- Intern Ronald Martin-Dent, a graduate student at the University of Washington iSchool, continued to develop a preservation plan for the library’s map collection and to conduct basic preservation and conservation work on these materials.

Digital Projects
- The division continues to contribute digitized content to a handful of online platforms, increasing discoverability and access to these materials. In February, the library’s Rochester Voices website (http://www.rochestervoices.org/) received 1,585 pageviews. There were 2,621 page views of library content on New York State Historic Newspapers (https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/) in January and 1,230 page views of library content on that site in February. There were 1,900 page views of library content on New York Heritage (https://nyheritage.org/) in January. At the time of this report, February statistics for New York Heritage were not yet available.
- The FamilySearch scanning team scanned 204 yearbooks in February. See below for details. Digital products from this project are available through the FamilySearch site (https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/?search=&sort=score&perpage=10&page=1&fulltext=1&page=1&refine%5BOwnerInstitution%5D%5B%5D=Rochester%20Public%20Library). The most recent reports from FamilySearch indicate that 26 items from the Rochester Public Library were added to the site in November 2023, and 69 items were added in December. The most recent viewing report indicates there were 296 views of library content on the site in January.
Materials scanned by FamilySearch, February 2024:

<table>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Publication Date (range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clavus</td>
<td>Allendale School</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1942-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synergy</td>
<td>Allendale/Columbia</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1975-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalon</td>
<td>Avon Central School</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1948-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hour Glass</td>
<td>Columbia School</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1918 March - 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia School</td>
<td>Columbia School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hour Glass (Fairport)</td>
<td>Fairport HS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Trail Middle School</td>
<td>Bay Trail Middle School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanakadea</td>
<td>Alfred University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown and Sceptre</td>
<td>Bishop Kearney HS</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1966-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Brighton HS</td>
<td>Brighton High School</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1950-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton HS Cross Roads</td>
<td>Brighton High School</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1936-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edisonian Edison Tech</td>
<td>Edison Technical HS</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brockport Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arista Brockport High School</td>
<td>Brockport HS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1961-1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** 204

**Social Media**
- There were two new posts to the Local History ROCs! blog in February:
  - “Street Stories: Celebrating the Legacy of Three Local Leaders” by Emily Morry
  - “It’s About...Time: Honoring Carolyne and James Blount” by Antoine McDonald.
  These posts received 81 total views in February. In addition, readers from 42 countries revisited 190 previously published posts for a total of 2,957 blog views in February.
- Morry’s blog series on the Inner Loop was linked to in a Riff Reporter article by German journalist Steve Przybilla, who interviewed Morry about the history of Inner Loop in January 2024 (https://www.riffreporter.de/de/umwelt/highway-abriss-rochester-stadtautobahn-inner-loop-verkehrswende-usa).

**Interns/Volunteers**
The division’s work was supported by three volunteers and one unpaid intern in February for a total contribution of 108 hours. Karen Sue Brown continued sorting and filing the backlog of newspaper clippings; she contributed 27.5 hours in February. Noeme Liestman provided 8 hours of processing the Whitlaw Roemer Photographic Collection, a large collection of documentary, experimental, and fine art photographic prints from a local amateur photographer. Owain Gray assisted Liestman with the Roemer collection and completed the rehousing of the Beechnut Family Album. Gray contributed 13 hours this month. The division’s graduate intern, Martin-Dent, spent 59.5 hours on his project with the division’s map collection (see Special Collections above).
Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference
RMC handled 840 reference questions and 375 non-reference transactions for a total of 1215.

Programs
- RMC sponsored The Black Film Festival for 2024 providing 13 viewings over the entire month of February. The films were classic to modern films by, about, and starring Black Americans. The festival opened on Feb 1st w/remarks from Rachel Deguzman from GEVA Theatre. The films shown were: *Harry and Lena, Island in the Sun, Till, How Does it Feel to be a Problem?, New Faces, Summer of Soul, Daughters of the Dust, Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner, Take Me to the River, The Color Purple, Visions of the Spirit: A Portrait of Alice Walker, For Colored Girls, Watermelon Man.*
- Brown Bag Book Discussion: *Agent Josephine* by Damien Lewis

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training
Robert Scheffel coordinated a music playlist to accompany the Clarissa St/Pythodd exhibit.

RMC Circulation
RMC loaned 12 pieces of equipment and **404 Mi-Fi units** in addition to the regular collection, for a grand total of 3,906 items.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs
- CPR Demo and Open House – The Science Division was visited by Martina Lindahl, nurse educator, UR School of Nursing, and her colleague, Samantha Dandrea, to demonstrate use of the CPR kits that are available for loan throughout MCLS Libraries, though a partnership with the University of Rochester and the American Heart Association. Visitors were shown how to administer CPR and use defibrillation equipment; all necessary materials are included in each CPR kit. Lindahl would like to return on a regular basis to teach this all-important skill.
Palestine 1936 – Author talk by Oren Kessler – The book, which provided an even-handed treatment of all parties involved in the early history of the disposition of Palestine, won accolades from Wall Street Journal, Booklist, and the Jewish Book Council, American Library Association. The crowd was very engaged and asked thoughtful questions. One of them was whether there might be any hope to resolve the situation. Kessler suggested that yes, there may indeed be hope. The author remained after the talk for a book signing.

Lyndon B. Johnson and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – presented by Mark Sample, MCC history professor, talked about the events after John F. Kennedy’s assassination and the historical events that led up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A large group attended the program, and everyone was interested in listening to Mark’s presentation; several people asked questions. A news reporter from Channel 13 came and interviewed Mark and Renée Kendrot about the program since it was Presidents Day. Channel 13-WHAM aired the comments from Mark and included information Kendrot shared about the Black Film Festival for February. There will be one more program in this program series about Lyndon B. Johnson and the Gulf of Tonkin presented by Mark Sample.

Learn to Code – Formerly called Girls Who Code, Faezeh Jahanshiri now holds these programs for all teens and adults. They continue every Wednesday afternoon as joint programs between Science and Teen Central and continue to be popular.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors reached about 65 in February. LawNY, which provides paralegals to help make referrals for people, has been having a staffing issue and has not been able to regularly report for its Friday slot, so the service has been suspended until this is resolved. We are working with LawNY to consider changing the date or time of their visits. In addition, we have not had our monthly Health Insurance Navigator as she has been on an extended winter vacation.

Gabriel Pellegrino attended a Unite Us Training from the 360 Collaborative Network. Unite Us is the platform used to refer people in need to participating organizations. LROC is a member organization, so it receives referrals for food, housing, etc. Pellegrino can choose to accept a referral and then contact the person in need to provide information on what LROC can do for assistance. Once the person has been contacted and advised, the case can be closed. Pellegrino handles between 5-10 referrals every month, so this is in addition to the regular LROC services.

Displays

Alaikia Miller and Renée Kendrot put up a book display for Black History Month. Patrons have been very interested in and have borrowed books from this display.

Jahanshiri and Kendrot put up a book display for Heart Health Month, which also coordinated with the CPR demonstration sessions. Many books have also been borrowed from this display.

Miller created an exceptionally large (eight-foot diameter) half-moon sculpture to sit upon a Science display case, under which is a wide selection of books related to the moon and eclipse.
Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Programs

- Ginger Brewer has become the primary contact person for our digital literacy program. She has worked with Digital Literacy of Rochester volunteers to coordinate additional computer classes and add them to the MCLS calendar. Brewer has also helped them set up the classroom in the Technology Center to best meet the needs of the patrons they will be teaching. This collaboration has developed over the last few years and classes are now provided in the Technology Center twice a week.

- Pedro Nunez continues his tabletop gaming program and this continues to draw a steady audience. He and Cy Shropshire are planning a gaming mini-conference this spring. The final roster of participants for a panel discussion is nearly complete and Cy has confirmed the keynote speaker.

Anecdotes

During the month of February, the Technology Center staff saw an increased number of patrons needing assistance obtaining their Monroe County and City of Rochester annual tax bills to proceed with filing their taxes with the CASH program. Staff from the CASH program have begun accompanying patrons to the Technology Center to assist them in finding the needed documentation online. Many patrons have given the Technology team acknowledgment for their hard work and dedication. More than a few seem to visit us primarily at tax season and will often ask to work with specific staff members. Several patrons stopped by the library just to let us know they have gotten jobs they applied for with the assistance of Technology Center staff.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- ESPORTS – The Tekken 8 Tournament took place this month. Many of our regular teens participated and provided a solid audience. The 585Fighterz hosted and shout casted the event. They also brought catering from Chick-fil-a.

- The Teens made a Black History Inventor "Guess Who" game. They provided clues about life changing U.S. inventions and what problems they solved. Contestants were able to confer about the viable names provided and the team with the most right answers won. They chose king size candy as their prizes.

- Rondell Breedlove, CEO of The International Commission of Urban Entrepreneurs, came to engage the teens in financial education. He was able to lay the framework of how the stock market works, provided examples of successful day trades, and used a visual aid to illustrate the tracking of daily vs more long-term investments. He provided information on opening student-based checking and savings accounts thru ESL banking.
Anecdotes
Two teens who regularly visit the Teen Center volunteered to play the roles of Elephant and Piggie for Take Your Child to the Library Day. They "enjoyed putting smiles on the kids’ faces" and were grateful to have "made some big bucks!"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Towns</th>
<th>45323</th>
<th>44958</th>
<th>+/-</th>
<th>%</th>
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RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan–Feb

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<th></th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Circulation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
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<td><strong>Library Cards</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Service Hours</strong></td>
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<td>5,194</td>
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Note: Rundel Building door counter is missing data for February 2023.
**DEFINITIONS**

**Circulation:** Includes the circulation of all library materials both over the desk and virtual/e-content.

**Library Cards:** New patron registrations. Excludes renewals.

**Service Hours:** Hours the library is open to the public.

**Visits:** Door count of persons entering the library.

**Reference Questions:** Questions requiring staff to recommend, interpret, evaluate, instruct, etc.

**Non-reference:** Directional questions. E.g., What are the hours? Where is ___?

**Notary:** Notary Public acts. Each signature counts as one act.

**Computer Hours:** Hours patrons used the public PCs.

**WiFi Uses:** Number of log-ins to the public WiFi.

**Group Programs:** In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

**Program Attendance:** Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes staff and presenters.