



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building  
March 17, 2025, 5:00 PM  
Agenda**

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Corcoran
  
- II. ACTION ITEMS**
  - 1. Minutes of February meeting Corcoran page 3
  - 2. Claims Hasselwander page 7
  
- III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**
  - 1. Liaison from Rochester Public Library Board Drury
  - 2. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council Knapp
  - 3. Liaison from Friends & Foundation of the RPL Borgus
  
  - 4. Staff Reports
    - a. Director's Report Clasper page 9
    - b. MCLS Services Smathers page 10
    - c. Central Library Services Clasper page 16
  
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS**
  
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 9:00 a.m.  
Joint Meeting with Rochester Public Library Board  
Central Library, 115 South Avenue, 14620**



**Joint MCLS & RPL Board of Trustees Meeting  
Kusler-Cox Auditorium, Rundel Memorial Library Building  
February 26, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

- MCLS Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Christopher Corcoran, Alinda Drury. Emily Hessney Lynch, Peter Knapp, Amy Moffitt, Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)
- MCLS Trustees Excused:** Kimberly Brown, Marjorie Shelly, Mack Smith, Erick Stephens
- RPL Trustees Present:** Donna Benjamin, Elizabeth Call, Alinda Drury, James Kraus, Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, Sharon Salluzzo, Suzanne Stockman Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)
- RPL Trustees Excused:** Ellen Brenner, Daniel Karin
- Staff and Guests:** County Law Liaison, Keana Williams; County Administration Liaison, Molly Clifford; City Law Liaison, Johanna Brennan; FFRPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, Ana Suro

**Call to Order**

Mr. Corcoran called the MCLS Board meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Ms. Benjamin called the RPL Board meeting to order at 9:07 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.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the MCLS January meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

The minutes of the RPL January meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

**MCLS Claims**

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions.

Mr. Brandt asked that Empire Pass utilization data be provided to the Board. After discussion, Dr. Knapp MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RPL Personnel Changes**

Ms. Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for January 13, 2025–February 7, 2025, and offered to answer questions. Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RPL Financial Reports**

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the financial reports with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Kraus MADE A MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RPL FY24 Audit**

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the annual audit with the trustees.

Ms. Emily Hessney Lynch joined the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to accept EFPR’s audit of the 2023-24 fiscal year. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Bausch and Lomb Building Extended Hours (RPL Action)**

Ms. Clasper reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Call MADE A MOTION to approve extended hours for the Bausch and Lomb first floor on April 23, 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Grant Acceptance, Rochester Regional Library Council (RPL Action)**

Ms. Clasper reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. In response to a question, she clarified that the work paid for by the grant will be a small dent in the full processing of the County Historian archives. Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to accept a Rochester Regional Library Council grant in the amount of \$3,300. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**MCLS Liaison to RPL**

Ms. Stockman pointed out that minutes from both January meetings were included in the joint meeting packet and offered to answer any questions.

**RPL Liaison to MCLS**

Ms. Drury shared that the RPL Board approved an additional \$6000 to be paid to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for their production of the *Rochester History Journal*. There will be additional discussions soon about the future of the Journal and eliminating the printing in favor of an online-only product. Next, she shared that BJ Scanlon will be starting soon as Deputy Director for RPL overseeing the Branches. She shared that the Patron Incident Reporting System (PITS) is a significant improvement over the prior paper-based system and the RPL staff are finding it to be much easier to navigate and are pleased with the increased communication flow. Lastly, she reminded everyone that the RPL Board needs a trustee with financial experience. If anyone has any recommendations, please share them with President Benjamin or Director Clasper.

**Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison**

Dr. Knapp shared that the RRLC Board has not met since his last report.

**Friends and Foundation of the RPL (FFRPL) Liaison**

Ms. Borgus reported that the fundraiser honoring retired Library Director Patty Uttaro raised \$13,072, exceeding the \$10,000 goal.

**Director’s Report/MCLS/Central/Branches**

Ms. Clasper offered to answer question about the written report. She shared that her first couple weeks as the Library Director have gone well. Retired Director, Patty Uttaro left clear and comprehensive documentation and information—setting her up for success.

Next, she shared that she has begun her assignment of visiting all RPL Branches and MCLS member libraries. She has also been having one-on-one meetings with the Mayor and the County Executive, City and County senior managers, and other stakeholders and interested community members.

She shared that everyone she has reached out to for help—whether in the libraries, the City, or the County—have been very patient, kind, and eager to help.

Next, she reported that she has been getting many questions asking what impact the new federal administration and its many changes will have on local libraries. The short answer is that the impact is currently unknown. She is staying in contact with the State Librarian, City, and County governments and everyone is tracking the changes being made and looking for where those changes impact their constituents. As of now, there are no direct threats to libraries coming from the federal administration. A large concern is E-Rate funding. The most recent reports are that it is not being cut. E-Rate funding supports about 90% of the cost to provide internet access system-wide.

In response to a question, she shared that staff have received training on what to do if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers come into the library. This has not happened so far, but it is something staff are concerned about, and the training was well attended.

On behalf of Ms. Smathers, she shared that today the MCLS Directors are having their annual retreat at the Rochester Museum and Science Center Planetarium. She will be going to that meeting after this meeting adjourns.

For the Central Library she reported that work is being done to fill the vacant Associate Director position and she hopes this will be filled soon.

Next, she shared that the Black-owned Business Expo held at the Central Library on February 20 was a success. In the end, seventy-five businesses signed up for the event. Many of the vendors expressed their appreciation and they did a lot of networking amongst themselves. She is hoping this will become an annual event for the library.

Lastly, she introduced Molly Clifford, the new Monroe County Administration Liaison to the MCLS Board.

**Joint Executive Session**

Both Boards moved into Executive Session at 9:47 a.m. to discuss specific job titles related to potential budget cuts.

Both Boards moved out of Executive Session at 10:21 a.m.

**Proposed FY26 Central Library Budget (Joint Action)**

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the proposed budget and offered to answer questions. After discussion, for the MCLS Board Ms. Hessney Lynch MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2025-26 Central Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the RPL Board Ms. Murphy Abbamonte MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2025-26 Central Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Proposed FY26 Community Library Budget (RPL Action)**

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the proposed budget and offered to answer questions. After discussion, Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2025-26 Community Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RPL Other Business**

None

**RPL Adjournment**

The RPL meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

**MCLS Executive Session**

The MCLS board moved into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. to discuss the employment contract for Emily Clasper.

The MCLS board moved out of Executive Session at 11:00 a.m.

**Director’s Employment Contract**

Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed employment contract with Emily Clasper. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**MCLS Other Business**

None

**MCLS Adjournment**

The MCLS meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

*Debi Mansour on behalf of Emily Clasper, MCLS Secretary  
Daniel Karin, RPL Secretary*

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
FINANCIAL CLAIMS 2025**

MON	DAY	CLAIM VO	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	REMARKS
12	31	2000639922	11118980- HP INC		\$27,864.45	HP Compete Desktop SFF KIT ID: 51521499 (2024 exp)
1	17	2000639925	11126541- DELL		\$761.83	LAPTOP FOR KATY HASSELWANDER
1	31	2000639869	11127344- KNACK		\$892.50	PRO NON PROFIT YEARLY SUBSCRIP.
2	1				\$1,020.00	County Journal for Fleet Maintenance Fuel & Repairs
2	5	2000641090	11109903- OVERDRIVE		\$281.06	MATERIALS HOLD
2	5	2000641090	11109903- OVERDRIVE		\$1,519.68	MATERIALS HOLD
2	5	2000641090	11109903- OVERDRIVE		\$1,506.28	MATERIALS HOLD
2	5	2000640390	11128566- CENGAGE LEARNING		\$32,000.00	GALE PRESENTS: UDEMY
2	6	2000640929	11119830- AMAZON		\$117.90	RUBBER PADS FOR MIFIS
2	6	2000641485	11120635- CROWN CASTLE		\$2,075.00	INTERNET FEB 2025
2	6	2000641485	11120635- CROWN CASTLE		\$16,921.06	DIGITAL TRANSMISSION FEB 2025
2	6	2000640389	11128531- LITERACY ROCHESTER		\$6,873.00	BRANCH HOURS: JAN 2025- THIS WILL BE REFUNDED BC THE AMT ON THE INVOICE WAS INCORRECT
2	7	2000641306	11102541- UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES		\$3,288.60	MATERIAL RECOVERY 2025
2	11	2000641055	11105435- EBSCO INFO SERVICES		\$40,143.83	CONSUMER REPORTS
2	12	2000641586	11102081- GATES PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$1,201.30	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641594	11103572- PITTSFORD LIBRARY		\$944.80	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641595	11103615- BROCKPORT SEYMOUR LIBRARY		\$621.80	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641602	11104449- RUSH LIBRARY		\$149.30	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641605	11105162- HENRIETTA PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$1,453.40	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641053	11105181- ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY		\$10,549.40	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641609	11105288- EAST ROCHESTER		\$289.00	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641360	11105432- BRIGHTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY		\$1,146.00	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641614	11106034- SCOTTSTVILLE LIBRARY		\$178.70	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	12	2000641370	11106122- NEWMAN RIGA LIBRARY		\$172.40	2024-25 LSSA 10%
2	18	2000641177	11128531- LITERACY ROCHESTER		\$4,930.00	BRANCH HOURS: JAN 2025
2	21	2000641304	11102440- RMSC		\$500.00	RMSC ROOM RENTAL FOR DIRECTOR'S RETREAT
					<b>\$157,401.29</b>	







# Monroe County Library System

[www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org)

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

Emily Clasper, Director | [emily.clasper@libraryweb.org](mailto:emily.clasper@libraryweb.org) | 585-428-8046

TO: MCLS Board of Trustees  
FROM: Emily Clasper, Director  
DATE: March 17, 2025  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–March 2025

## **Action Items**

None

## **Report & Discussion Items**

### **MCLS Director Emily Clasper reporting**

#### Recommended Reading

- Rochester (NY) Public Library Program Takes Teens to Washington, DC  
<https://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/story/Rochester-ny-Public-library-Program-Takes-Teens-Washington-DC>
- Commitment to AI Innovation: SJSU's First AI Librarian  
<https://blogs.sjsu.edu/newsroom/2025/commitment-to-ai-innovation-sjsus-first-ai-librarian/>
- The American Library Association is Defending E-Rate at the Supreme Court. Here's Why that Matters.  
<https://ilovelibraries.org/article/the-american-library-association-is-defending-e-rate-at-the-supreme-court-heres-why-that-matters/>

#### Director's Update

- Emily Clasper, Jennifer Smathers, and Alicia Gunther attended NYLA Advocacy Day, meeting with local legislators at their offices in Albany to reinforce the importance of funding libraries. A few others from Monroe County libraries joined the group as they advocated for increased construction aid, operating fund support, and legislation to support and protect libraries across the State. Smathers and Clasper also attended meetings with colleagues from the state's Public Library System Directors Organization and the New York Alliance of Library Systems to discuss issues common across all of New York's libraries. Clasper then attended the annual fundraising event for New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC, a Political Action Committee devoted to advancing the cause of libraries across the State.
- Following the activities of NYLA's Advocacy Day, Clasper stayed an extra day in Albany to meet with the State Librarian and other Public Library System Directors to discuss the nuances of State Education Law as it pertains to Public Libraries. This proved quite the education for Clasper, who was able to ask questions about how some of the laws may or may not impact our local libraries should different scenarios arise. As a result, Clasper will be arranging an informational session with the State Librarian for our local Library Directors so they can ask specific questions about these details as they specifically apply to their libraries.



Clasper is planning to attend several additional meetings at the State Library in coming months to work with other new System Directors from across the state to learn more about State requirements for Public Libraries and dig into the details in earnest.

- Clasper met with representatives from the MCLS Director's Council to discuss the group's vision for the future of MCLS services. The meeting was congenial as the library directors offered suggestions for specific services they would like to see and identified challenges they sometimes experience. Clasper enjoyed diving into the issues with the group and brainstorming possible solutions. She now has a list of action items that is sure to keep her busy as she works with the MCLS staff and library directors to reach new goals for services.

### Director's Site Visits

#### **February**

Charlotte Branch  
Maplewood Community Library

#### **January**

Frederick Douglass Community Library  
Lyell Branch  
Monroe Branch

### ***MCLS Member Libraries***

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

Collaborative Programs hosted by multiple member libraries:

**Take Your Child to the Library Day** was celebrated across the nation and at all our MCLS libraries, who greeted the influx of young'uns with a variety of activities. Crafting options included creating buttons, making bookmarks, and weaving rag rugs. Depending on the library, patrons might have seen visiting zoo animals, or a famous book character. Children at Penfield even had the opportunity to paint cupcakes. <https://takeyourchildtothelibrary.org/>

#### Brighton Memorial Library

It's not every day you see chickens in a library staff area—but these little ones were some of the stars of Chickens and Stories with Dr. Sandra Sluberski

#### Chili Public Library

February brought one sad morning at the library. We had to share the news that library hamster Marigold is gone. We want our little friends (and their grownups!) to be prepared for what they will find when they visit. Facebook responses to the sad news were filled with declarations of love, and gratefulness for Marigold being shared. One person commented, "*Marigold spread so much happiness in her time! Thank you, Marigold, our kids will miss you 😞*"



Fairport Public Library

Our patrons had a blast at this month's shindig! What a great way to shake off the winter cold. Watch some of the dance moves here, but don't get dizzy: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/163cEPmJsg/>

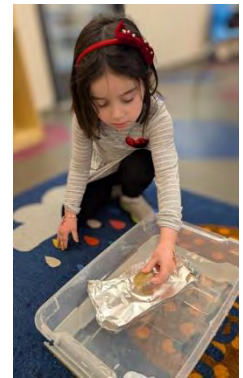


Gates Public Library

The 65<sup>th</sup> Sapphire Jubilee Anniversary celebration was such fun. A rousing game of *Gates Public Library* Trivia was hosted by four of our longest-serving librarians on staff. Attendees delighted in the music shared by Harpist Roxanne Ziegler and Mamma Goose on the Loose. Anniversary cake was consumed, and we entrusted a time capsule to be opened at the 100th year Anniversary of Gates Public Library in 2060!

Greece Public Library

- February saw the appointment of Kieth C. Suhr as Greece Public Library Director. Former Director Cathy Henderson is delighted to be stepping into the Associate Director role, which had been filled for 16 years by Suhr from 2006-2022. The transition is going smoothly, with library programming continuing apace.
- Children explored hands-on science concepts during our two February sessions of Little Learners STEAM! Kids built rafts and bridges and learned about the concept of balance.



Hamlin Public Library

Hamlin patrons experienced amazing presentation from Bekka Haase of the Siberian Husky Club of the Niagara Frontier. Bekka and her huskies race professionally. We learned a lot about sled dog racing and loved meeting the huskies! You can learn more about Bekka and her adventures at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BQcvpTP2T/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



### Henrietta Public Library

Calvin Eaton, the Gluten Free Chef, gave a live cooking demo where he showed how to make a simple and easy gluten-free no-bake dessert. You can learn more by visiting [www.theglutenfreechefblog.com](http://www.theglutenfreechefblog.com) and by checking Calvin's cookbook, *Just Desserts* for more gluten-free inspiration.

### Irondequoit Public Library

Patrons experienced the program: Pathway of Resistance: The Erie Canal and the Underground Railroad. The constantly evolving talk examines the experience of African Americans along the Erie Canal Corridor, with a particular focus on the struggle for abolition.

### Mendon Public Library

On April 21st, 1945, Tuskegee Airman Leland "Sticky" Pennington took off on a flight in his P-51 Mustang 'Lucy Gal.' World War II was drawing near a close, but his services as a bomber escort pilot were still sorely needed. En route to the mission, the Rochester, NY pilot went missing in action, and he has never been found. His story, however, is still flying. Austin Hancock shared the inspiring story of this brave airman and aviation history with Mendon patrons.

### Newman Riga Library

Patrons who stopped in for Take Your Child to the Library Day got to see what Newman Riga Library offers. Bookmarks, stickers, and a take & make craft were available. We capitalized on the opportunity to tell everyone about our library.

### Ogden Farmers' Library

Stacey is the prize drawing winner for our 2024 Reading Challenge. She won a \$50 Amazon gift card just for reading 12 qualifying books. 15 participants completed the Challenge by reading books in broad categories. One category required participants to complete a craft from a craft book. They made a variety of items including washi tape stickers, origami, Christmas tree cards, and elderberry syrup. Patrons can pick up a 2025 Reading Challenge card and finish any 12 of the 24 categories to be entered into another drawing.



### Parma Public Library

Patrons celebrated the Lunar New Year by combining engineering and art to make light-up paper lanterns. We observed the Chinese Lunar New Year by making a snake craft as an ode to 2025 being the year of the wood-snake.

### Penfield Public Library

- Valentine's Day was packed at Penfield. The Penfield Public Library Foundation, Inc.'s wine tasting on Thursday, February 13 featured different wine and food pairings at a lovely location and great gift baskets up for auction. New to the tasting this time around were mocktails, for those who preferred a delicious nonalcoholic beverage.
- The library's Valentine's Pop-Up asked visitors to share the title of a favorite book or a book they enjoyed and would recommend to other readers. and you can score yourself some chocolate candies. At the end, we'll post everyone's book recommendations up where the rest of our library community can see them and get some reading inspiration. Suggestions from patrons, who scored some chocolate for participating,

included *The Alchemist*, *Fourth Wing*, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, *Tears of Salt*, *Frog & Toad Are Friends*, and *The Lincoln Highway*.

#### Pittsford Community Library

Where to Begin? Meeting the Challenge of Plastic in our Lives was inspired by the film *We're All Plastic People Now*. The panel discussion focused on the health effects of plastic pollution, plastic recyclability, alternative non-plastic options, and more. Panelists included: Jane van Dis, Assistant Professor of OBGyn at UR Medicine; Jackie Ebner, sustainability educator and consultant with Resource Recycling Systems; and Robert Putney, CEO of Impact Earth.

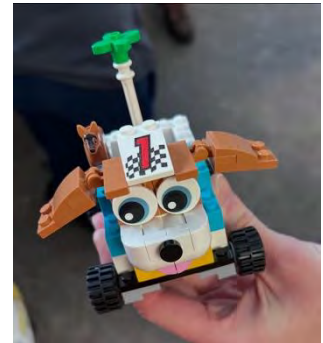
#### Rush Public Library

Our Lego Afternoon was so much fun. The variety of vehicles created by our builders was truly impressive. Thank you so much to the Laniak family for your support of this program, your contributions made the day extra special!

#### Seymour Library

*Ravenna the Cat* is a sweet story told in just one of the 5-page books you can see on our shelves. Patrons were invited to stop in and write their own 5-page book on February 1st. To meet Ravenna online visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EdpRGEyoL/>



#### Webster Public Library

Rochester Regional Health's Mobile Mammogram Center visited Webster Public Library's Parking Lot. They offered screenings every 15 minutes with no insurance needed and no one turned away.

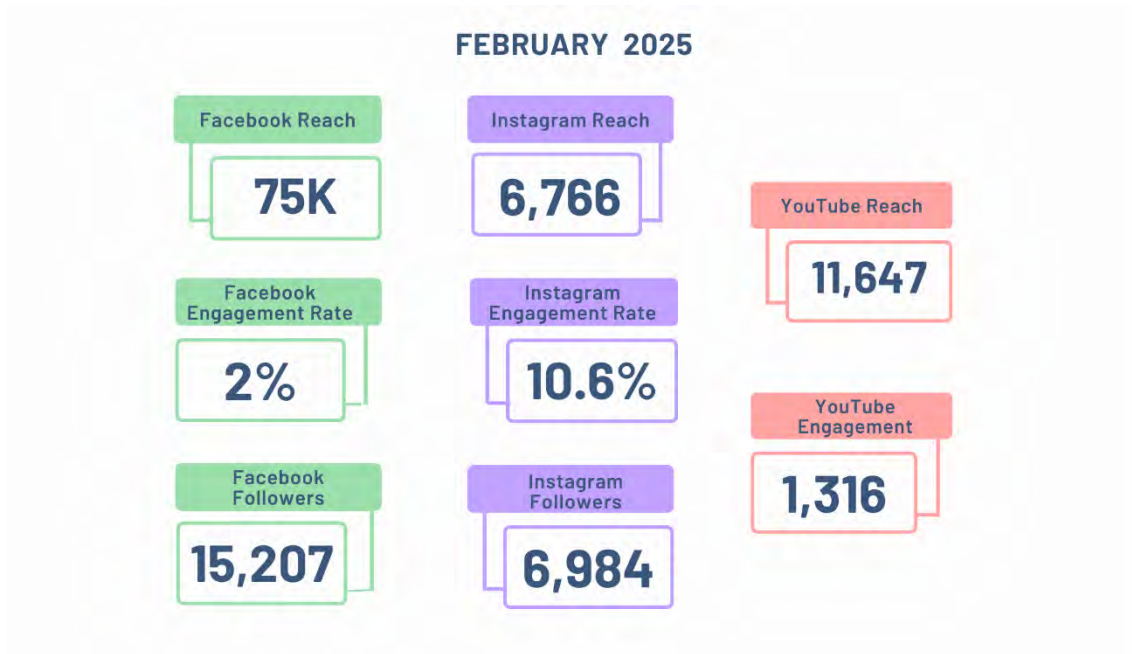
## **MCLS Office Updates**

### **Jennifer Smathers reporting**

#### Events & Meetings

- The MCLS Staff coordinated the annual Director's Retreat, held this year at the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Strassenburgh Planetarium. The theme of the retreat was Stargazing, playing into the RMSC STEM Ambassadors program theme. In addition to discussing plans for the coming year, the library directors participating enjoyed a Star Show, engaged in a Q&A session with new Director Emily Clasper, and received "Media 101" training from the City of Rochester's Communications office.
- The Marketing team launched the RPL Teen Sticker Contest on February 1. Over the next 2 months teens can submit sticker designs to the contest for a summer RPL Sticker crawl. 11 winners will be selected in April (1 design per RPL Library location), and stickers will be distributed to each RPL library to launch Summer Reading.
- Gunther has been working with Geva Theatre and MCLS Member libraries to launch a series of Book Discussions and Film viewings to promote the production of *Little Women*. For the series Gunther turned on Cost-Per-Circulation (CPC) use of the eBook and eAudiobook in Libby. The title was checked out 191 times on Libby in February.

Social Media



**Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting**

A patron learned about the collection on the library website and borrowed one of our “Favorite Things: Companion Photo & Activity Cards” sets. This is what they shared via our online feedback form:

*“My mom is in late-stage Alzheimer’s. She enjoyed looking at the cards over and over again. She’s pretty nonverbal so we didn’t have conversations, but I was able to talk about the content of the cards with her. It was fascinating to see what held her attention, what perplexed her (peacock!), and what held no interest. She was a gardener and nature/bird watcher, so the card collection topics were perfect. Love that they were laminated. I think I may try making my own cards now.”*

Programs and Tabling

- Ron Freitag was joined by technology center staff Cy Shropshire and Jonathan Hammond as they conducted three tech outreach sessions at senior and residential facilities. A total of fifteen seniors were assisted with their technology related issues.
- Maren Kyle gave a presentation to the current cohort of the Pathstone Employment Focused Services Program about essential library services, with an emphasis on library collections and services that are of value to individuals who are job hunting.
- Outreach librarians visit Lifespan senior day programs where we listen to a short story read by Levar Burton and then discuss it. This month, they engaged with seniors at Lily Café about the short story *Appropriation of Cultures* by Percival Everett and at Wolk Cafe, discussing *When the Apples are Ripe* by Diane Oliver
- Outreach staff provided copies of book club titles in multiple formats to support book club programming at senior living facilities Valley Manor and Ashley Woods.

### Meetings & Training

- Wes Becker attended several sessions at the Social Justice Community Partnership Summit hosted at the Central Library by the Office of the State Attorney General of NY. Wes participated in several group discussions related to reentry including housing and systemic barriers.

### **Children's Center, Chelsea Arnold reporting**

#### Programs

- Building Families First came for an interactive African Drumming program and D'Ilores Simmons and Gail Livingston of Black storytelling League of Rochester for a story program during February Break.



- Nadia Morales and Francis Harte held an Ice Cream craft, to teach kids about Augustus Jackson, a black inventor who revolutionized the ice-cream making process. Kids enjoyed a tasty ice cream sandwich afterwards.
- Morales also collaborated with the business department to do a 'Think Money' program for kids, where players got to adopt a pretend pet and take on financial responsibility of being a pet owner.



#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Margarita Chaves was invited to read at School #33 for the annual World Read Aloud Day to the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) bilingual class. Chaves was able to join this event with other community members in Monroe County and share the wonderful events and programs that the Central Library offers.
- Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen provided training for MCLS children's librarians on enhancing storytimes to build children's math skills.
- Chelsea Arnold attended a meeting at Healthi Kids where the group discussed their survey on play in Rochester.



#### Raising A Reader

Raising a Reader staff, Margarita Chaves, Olivia Cutter, and Cheryl Johnson, continue to support teachers in the classroom with bag rotation and various supplies needed for the program. Cutter and Chaves worked closely with RCSD #12 Anna-Murray Douglass School to create activities for their Love Your Child Event. It provided opportunities to discuss the program with parents and general library programming occurring

in the coming weeks. RAR staff have begun story times at various locations or supporting through one-on-one readings. RAR staff also gave out packets focusing on literacy skills to all locations.

Anecdotes

Morales created a Black History Month 'Icon of the Day' Calendar for the February bulletin display and put up flyers about each person. Patrons looked forward to seeing who the new person of the day would be.



**Central Library Updates**

*Emily Clasper reporting*

- As part of Black History Month celebrations, the Central Library held a Black-Owned Business Expo to showcase local businesses, provide networking opportunities for the business owners, and give library patrons a chance to sample or purchase products from these businesses. The event drew approximately 70 businesses, who were enthusiastic about the opportunity. Local media covered the event, which featured on several news broadcasts that evening, and was promoted by the [Rochester Business Journal](#). One participant offered this feedback afterward:





*I'm still on cloud nine! This experience has been incredibly rewarding for me as a local artist. The staff was fantastic, and I appreciated their involvement, support, and organization. I also made some valuable connections with fellow artists. Thanks for having me! 😊*

- The Anthony Mascioli Gallery hosted the exhibit *Marionettes by Rachel*, a display of beautiful handmade, painted, and costumed Marionettes created by Folk Art creator Rachel Hennelly. The exhibit has drawn many visitors who have expressed their admiration for the detail and beauty of the puppets, as well as an appreciation for their expressive nature. The exhibit will run through March 25<sup>th</sup>.



### **Arts & Literature, Erin Clarke reporting**

#### Programs

- Nigel Maister presented a program based on an exhibition that he had organized entitled *Face Value: Approaches to Portraiture at UR galleries*. Maister presented an in-depth view of the historical meaning and changes of portrait photography and its development over the history of photography. Beginning with the linguistic origin of the word portrait, the lecture evolved into both a philosophical and material view into the ways and means of the photographic portrait. A lively discussion was held after on the subject by the attendees.
- 
- Taurus Savant, a poet and activist, presented his poetry and musings on the contemporary Black Queer experience. Savant presented a diverse reading of his works with a calm, passionate presence and delivery. This program engaged fans of poetry and offered an opportunity for attendees to directly engage with the poet. The crowd braved a strong snowstorm to attend the event.
  - Cocoa Rae presented an overview of Black photographers that influenced her own work, including Carrie Mae Weems, Deanna Larsen, Khadija Saye, Polly Irungo, Zanele Muholi, and Gatekeeper Adrian. These photographers show a varying view of the use of photography and the Black lens, a diverse view of portraiture, and elements of the family structure were depicted. Rae ended the program by presenting her own work through the lens of these photographers. This retrospective study introduced attendees to photographers they may not have been familiar with and encouraged them to have a conversation with the presenting photographer herself to better understand her work and the artists she admires.
  - Local poets and media personalities Doug Curry and Scott Williams gave readings in Kusler-Cox Auditorium in celebration of Black History Month. Curry is a poet, spoken-word artist, and host of the blues radio show Blacks and Blues that airs in Rochester on WRUR and in Chicago on WDCB. Williams is a poet and emeritus professor of mathematics at the University at Buffalo and was recently profiled in the PBS aired documentary *Journeys of Black Mathematicians*. The audience was highly appreciative and engaged, both
- 

speakers giving autobiographical readings on growing up Black in a segregated and evolving America; the discussion period with the audience went an extra hour.

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

Programs

- Business 1st Wednesday: An entrepreneurs Business Guide for 2025. Presented by Chole Adeyemi from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). February's topic was about the importance of planning ahead to prepare for marketing opportunities and budgeting for seasonal cycles when it comes to sales.
- Thinking Money for Kids - Pet Cents: In the game Pet Cents, children get the opportunity to “adopt” a pet. The kids learn the financial responsibilities of owning a pet, such as going to the veterinarian and the pet store. Participants are given \$150 at the start of the game, and go to different stations such as Food Store, Pet Store, Vet, and Pet School. At each station, participants had a choice on whether to dole out a little extra money to get their pet something a little nicer than the basic necessities, (e.g. a doghouse vs. a dog bed). At certain times during the game, an event card was read out, where the event determined whether you could receive money or had to spend money. Example: your dog chewed your chair; you need to spend money to reupholster it. If participants ran out of money, they could pick an “earn card” which gave them more money. Children learned that it takes money to care for a pet. They also learned about the concept of receiving change back for paying with a larger amount of money if they did not have exact change. The children were also excited because there were some unconventional pets to choose from, like a dragon, unicorn, or wolf.
- April Smith from Cannabis Workforce Initiative did a program on *Retail Opportunities and Terpology*.



Outreach and Training

- Lily Anthony attended the Entrepreneurial Start-up Business networking event at The Photography Experience.
- Melissa Cobo is a member of the National Small Business Week (NSBW) Rochester Planning Committee being led by RocEDC. Other organization is attendance: SBDC, Venture Jobs, PathStone, Rochester Commissary, SBA, and Ibero.
- Jen Byrnes taught an introduction to intellectual property for Rochester Institute of Technology's Exploring Innovation class.

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: N/A
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
  - In person: 4
  - Email: 18
  - Mail: 0
  - Phone: 3
  - Zoom: 0
- 3D Printer: 1
- Webpage views: 29

## MCLS Board Director's Report—March 2025 (Continued)

- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 7
- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 3
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 1

### Database Usage Statistics

- Frost & Sullivan - Page views: Value: \$20,700
- IBISWorld - Page views: Value: \$33,680
- InnovationQ - Logins: Searches: 57
- Mintel - Sessions: Page Views: 46 Downloads: 57
- PitchBook - Logins: N/A
- Statista - Page views: 49 Downloads: 18
- Foundation Directory - Searches: 52 Views: 311

### Anecdotes

- Email response -  
*Thank you both for such wonderful resources. I am reading all of this now and will have some recommendations for my team.*  
*Please let me know the next Library campaign as we would like to make a donation for all of the market research you have for (company name redacted)*
- Another happy patron reached out to Emily Clasper to make sure her positive feedback was heard.  
*I'm writing to provide positive feedback on the services of Melissa Cobo and Tracy Jong. As a participant in the SBDC program, I sought their assistance with trademarking for my business. Both Melissa and Tracy were extremely helpful, and I found the program's resources to be invaluable.*

### Wired for Opportunity Program

- The County-wide Digital Equity Initiative, Wired for Opportunity got an official logo and is making significant progress towards its goals.
- Udemy access for all Monroe County residents went live in January, and received significant [press coverage](#) in February. Additional media coverage of this and the rest of the Wired for Opportunity program is expected in March.
- Digital Literacy Courses are in development and are on track for a Spring launch, and the process for ordering and installing the Solar Tables is underway.



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

#### Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 2
- New Borrowers- 304
- RRLC Access Cards Issued- 6
- Notarial Acts- 90

#### Anecdotes

A patron came in recently to get a new card. It had been several years since she had a card, but she wanted to come now and show her support for libraries. She was very concerned that libraries were not being valued as

much as she thought they should be. She was happy to hear that libraries have strong support in Monroe County. She said that libraries are so important and necessary.

### **Local History & Genealogy, Shalis Worthy reporting**

#### Programs

- Antoine McDonald organized the Black History Month program A Taste of Jamaica: A Reflection of Culture, Community and Connection. McDonald partnered with the Rochester Jamaican Organization, who provided an awesome programming experience to a crowd of over 88 attendees. The program featured a detailed history of the organization in Rochester, and an informative PowerPoint presentation about the island and culture of Jamaica.
- Staff from the Strong Museum of Play's Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play visited the Local History & Genealogy Division to tour the archives and discuss our special projects.



#### Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Emily Morry was interviewed about the history of the inner loop by Caspar Goldman-Nedergaard, a graduate student from the Urban Planning Department at Columbia University, who is writing his thesis on the Inner Loop and its impact on Rochester.
- McDonald participated in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's Panel discussion titled Archivists Documenting Black History. He discussed his work with the Archive of Black History and Culture.

#### Anecdotes

We received this note from an educator about our online resources:

*"I just wanted to get in touch to send a quick thank-you note... I'm volunteering with a children's afterschool program, and last month the kids were working on family history research projects.. One of the kiddos, Rachael, was doing research online and she ended up on the RPL Local history & genealogy webpage ([roccitylibrary.org/division/local-history-genealogy/](http://roccitylibrary.org/division/local-history-genealogy/)).. It turned out to be a great find! She was able to get some excellent info and she decided that we needed to reach out and say thanks - so here we are LOL thank you!"*

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

#### Reference

RMC handled 808 reference questions and 338 non-reference transactions for a total of 1146.

#### RMC Circulation

RMC loaned 13 pieces of equipment and 772 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 3,822 items.

- Total circulation of RMC materials, including those that occurred at other libraries was 11,433.
- RMC materials accounted for 34% of the overall Central Library circulation (before renewals).

### Programs

- RMC held a Black Film Festival showing 13 films during the month.
- February's Brown Bag Book Meeting was about *James* by Percival Everett.
- RMC performed 20 A/V set ups for programs in the Central Library.

### Hoopla

#### **Circulation**

Audiobooks – 1937  
Binge Pass – 51  
Comics – 190  
eBooks – 446  
Movies/TV – 498  
Music – 90  
Total Circulation – 3212

#### **Users**

New users – 113  
Patrons using all 7 borrows – 170 (10%)  
Total users – 915

#### **Cost**

Total - \$7172.07  
Per item – \$2.23

### Door Count

- Mon – Fri average door count: 232 people per day
- Saturday average door count: 156 people per day

### Mifi Program

- As of this writing there are 523 holds with 770 currently circulating. RMC received another 400 Mi-Fi units. They are waiting for cases to house the Mi-Fi units to add them to the collection.
- Stephanie Lane designed a MiFi Device Satisfaction Survey that was released in February. It is a six-question survey and will be available for patrons in the library through May 31. An online version of the survey is planned to reach more patrons. As of March 1, 79 completed surveys have been received with 49 of them adding comments. A few comments are:
  - *Fabulous service, I'm a senior citizen and this allows me Wi-Fi access that I would not otherwise be able to afford. Thank you so much. 5-Stars*
  - *Best staff ever!!! 5-Stars*
  - *The MiFi service makes my life and my children's better. I don't have to pay for internet (\$\$). We have access to education and entertainment resources. 5-Stars*
  - *This courtesy of the MiFi box is amazing, I'm not able to pay for spectrum services, I'm disable, can't pay without working. 5-Stars*
  - *It's an Amazing System and Easy to Use. 5-Stars*
  - *Excellent Service for those who can't afford the internet. Allows me to attend my classes online from home. Thank you for the excellent customer service. 5-Stars*
  - *I always get help if there is a problem, that's Awesome. 5-Stars*

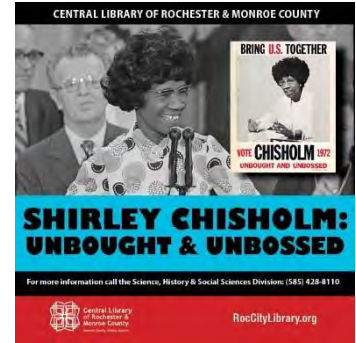
### Anecdotes

A man came into the Media Center and asked if we had anything that he could take home to entertain himself. He didn't have a TV or CD player because he had been homeless and had just moved into a new apartment. He had a new library card, and I suggested that he try listening to audiobooks in the Playaway format. We gave him a set of ear buds that Playaway provided, and he was delighted. It turns out he has a wide variety of tastes in books --Stephen King, David Baldacci, and Harlan Coben, as well as history. The gentleman walked out with 7 or 8 Playaways, hoping they would last till the next time he visited the library.

**Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting**

Programs

- Shirley Chisholm: Unbought and Unbossed, presented by Mark Sample, MCC history professor. Chisholm was the first woman of color to be elected to the House of Representatives (1968) and run in the presidential primaries (1972). Mark shared Shirley's inspirational background prior to her political career. The audience was engaged throughout Mark's presentation.
- Carlton Beckford, Admissions Specialist at MCC, presented a résumé workshop where he assisted individuals with creating résumés or updating existing ones using ChatGPT. In collaboration with Cy Shropshire and Jonathan Hammond from the Technology Center, Carlton was able to use the classroom in the Technology Center to present this class. Carlton will return to conduct the interviewing and professional photograph portions of this workshop. Renee Kendrot noted that this program was attended by a good cross-section of people of many ages and experience. This was a hands-on workshop to create a resume to be used for obtaining sustainable work. Much one-on-one coaching was done, and students have something tangible as a result.
- The New York State Taxpayer Assistance Program connects patrons with representatives from NYS Department of Taxation and Finance to assist in filling out their taxes on provided laptops, using online software. Patrons are taught how to use tax software, which they can continue to use on their own in the future or with this program. One of the patrons said that they were thrilled to come into the library to be able to file their taxes and they were going to apply for a library card. Flo Morris continues to work with the program, which will be ongoing throughout March. This is important hands-on work which will help them to file their taxes and hopefully receive refunds!



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Social Studies teacher Zachary Clarry and eight students from the Honeoye Falls Lima Middle School visited to conduct research using primary sources for their National History Day projects. The topics included Flappers, Codebreakers, The Stock Market Crash, Martin Luther King and the March on Washington, The Annexation of Hawaii, World War II and the Atomic Bomb, and World War II Allied Powers. Kendrot collaborated with Clarry to schedule the visit and requested a list of research topics ahead of time so materials could be retrieved and ready for the students. Daniel Pines assisted with pulling materials for the students. Kendrot assisted the students with using the NOVEL databases and other online sources to find journal articles and primary sources that pertained to their topics. Mr. Clarry and his students were pleased with the Division's efforts to assist them!



- Pellegrino continues to attend the monthly meetings of the Wilmot Cancer Center's Cancer Community Action Council (CCAC). In February, the group was visited via Zoom call by members of the Cancer Control Consortium of the New York State Department of Health to talk about its Action Teams and the outline for its statewide Comprehensive Cancer Control plan.
- Library Resource Outreach Center (LROC) visitors saw approximately 40 people in February. Some days had more than 10 or more people signing up for assistance with housing.

### Displays and Exhibits

Alaikia Miller created two new displays for February: a large Black History display and a smaller one featuring books about change. Subjects covered include abolition, human rights, LGBTQIA+ allies, weathering injustice, surviving through change, and so forth. Miller selected each title for this very intriguing and evocative display. The existing winter animals and birds display, along with the travel display, has remained popular and continued through February.

### Anecdotes

The Science Division participated in Tell Us Why You Love Rochester Public Library. Several patrons wrote up what they loved. Some comments were basic:



*"The staff is friendly and nice," "Peace and quiet."*

Others were more verbose:

*"I've been coming since childhood into adulthood. They're always so helpful, resourceful, and open to suggestions!" "I like the Rochester Public Library because we can come chill and relax whenever we are Downtown or when we want." "I like the public library because it's a place I can come when I have a lot on my mind or when I just wanna Relax in the library."*

### **Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting**

#### Programs

- Cy Shropshire has been developing a series of programs based on the Senior Planet curriculum, designed to assist patrons of 60 years of age and older. Classes cover topics such as Android Essentials, Basic Internet Searching, Choosing a New Computer and Exploring AI. Attendance of these classes has been steady, and participants have given positive feedback about the sessions so far.
- Shropshire has also taken on running the Central Library's Coding Club. In this club patrons of all ages are introduced to basic computer programming and elements of robotics and 3-D printing. The broad appeal of the subject material has drawn a steady stream of new participants. The Technology Center is using some of the funds generously provided by the Lovenheim family to purchase supplies and tools to keep this and similar programs providing quality content for several years.
- Trevor Johnson has been offering a program for seniors over zoom called The Zoom Room, catering specifically to elderly and infirm patrons that may not be able to attend classes at the library but have some basic skills with their computers or mobile devices. This mode of teaching allows elderly patrons to benefit from the deep skill set of the Technology Center staff from home. Some patrons also attended in person when the weather permits. This class is scheduled weekly and has covered topics such as how to store and retrieving contact information from cloud storage databases, taking and sending screenshots via text, updating apps from the Google Play Store, and navigating the MCLS library databases.

#### Anecdotes

- January was the end of Ginger Brewer's time with the Technology Center. Brewer came to the Technology Center from the Arnett Branch late in 2022, bringing many skills and abilities, not least her ability to connect with patrons of all ages. Though her abilities will be missed by the staff and users of the Technology Center, the promotion of such a high-quality professional to Branch Manager is excellent news for everyone in the system.
- During February, the Tech staff has seen an increased number of patrons needing help with their ID.ME and IRS accounts. Many patrons have forgotten the email addresses associated with their accounts, passwords, or both. The extra time that the Technology Center staff invest in every patron can be exhausting and challenging, but the commitment that the staff have for this work is clear. Even when all avenues to recover needed login information fail, our patrons are almost always gracious toward staff. After several years of more services becoming exclusively available online, staff rarely find a patron that is surprised that most critical government services require logging into secure sites and identification verification of some sort. Working with frustrated patrons is still time-consuming and we often need "all hands on deck" to help patron after patron for hours at a time. At these times, Jen Byrnes has lent the services of Rich Mangione from the Business Insight Center's Digital Equity program to help. Mangione's assistance has been invaluable as we navigate another busy tax season.
- One memorable moment came when Hammond assisted a patron, who had been visiting the library frequently. This patron was seeking work and struggled with applying for jobs online due to illiteracy. Hammond worked with him on his resume and guided him through the process of applying for positions.



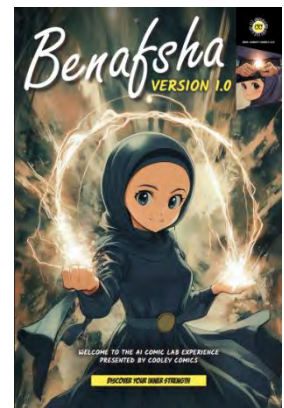
With Hammond's help, the patron secured a job at PriceRite. He later returned to the library, expressing his heartfelt gratitude. "Thank you, Jonathan, for your time and patience," he said. "I couldn't have done it without your help." It was a reminder of the powerful impact Hammond and the rest of the team has on the lives of the people they work with.

- Hammond also helped a Spanish-speaking patron who was looking to apply for a job. The patron, unfamiliar with the online application process, was struggling to understand the instructions in English. Hammond stepped in to assist, translating and interpreting the application to ensure the patron could complete it accurately. Later in another visit to the library this patron expressed her thanks and said, "Your help made it possible for me to apply for this job, and now I am able to work." Spanish speakers come to the Technology Center daily. Without Hammond's and Nunez's language skills, it is hard to see where some of our patrons could turn for the competent technology assistance they can access at the Central Library.
- Johnson worked one-on-one with a patron who had just lost their job. The patron visited the Tech Center, where Johnson assisted them in creating a resume and applying to Securitas. Initially, the patron felt overwhelmed and uncertain but later expressed relief and gratitude by smiling wide, saying: "At first, I was so lost and didn't know what to do, but now I just feel some relief." Interestingly, the patron is a diet and fitness coach. Johnson asked for advice on weightlifting and dieting while helping the patron get his resume created and posted. This exchange reinforced the mutual benefits of community support.

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

#### Programs

- Comic Empowerment Lab. There were two sessions held this month. Students used their stories to make comics. Middle school students and students in the LIT program learned about visual literacy and artificial intelligence while becoming comic book superheroes. Parents who attended the LIT group session enjoyed seeing their children as heroes and exploring their made-up worlds.
- The Liberators Esports team celebrated with Mayor Evans in recognizing Victor's Mario Kart World Tournament Playoff Win. The 585Fighterz also hosted a Tekken 8 tournament this month.



- RCSD Job Shadow week was held this month. 12 RCSD students visited the lab over a three-day period to learn about music production, photography, Artificial Intelligence, and graphic design. 19 students with an interest in digital media of all types got to experience what it's like to work with people in a professional setting. They were also able to have fun creating keychains and photoshopped images.



Anecdotes

The teenage boys in the library discovered a very specific use for the Glowforge this month: Valentines Day Gifts. Nearly every teenage boy with a girlfriend had a picture put on a piece of wood for a Valentines Day gift. Reserve packs of wood had to be brought out from the back room.



MCLS Circulation

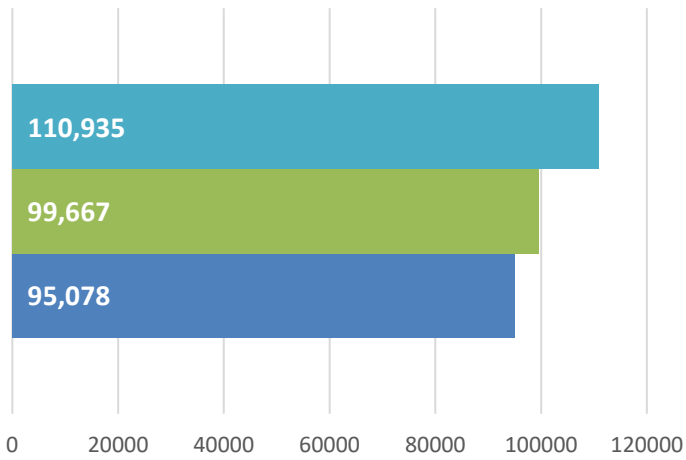
Town Libraries				
	Feb 2025	Feb 2024	+/-	%
Brighton	48,757	41,480	7,277	17.5%
Seymour	11,931	10,615	1,316	12.4%
Chili	20,299	16,854	3,445	20.4%
East Rochester	3,663	3,098	565	18.2%
Fairport	57,573	47,408	10,165	21.4%
Gates	19,793	18,070	1,723	9.5%
Greece	46,159	40,997	5,162	12.6%
Hamlin	4,418	4,247	171	4.0%
Henrietta	37,854	33,849	4,005	11.8%
Irondequoit	37,666	32,999	4,667	14.1%
Mendon	9,286	6,812	2,474	36.3%
Newman Riga	1,905	1,813	92	5.1%
Ogden	11,274	10,887	387	3.6%
Parma	7,625	6,356	1,269	20.0%
Penfield	39,902	34,077	5,825	17.1%
Pittsford	47,781	42,043	5,738	13.6%
Rush	2,607	2,372	235	9.9%
Mumford	580	494	86	17.4%
Scottsville	2,594	2,139	455	21.3%
Webster	38,540	32,854	5,686	17.3%
<i>Town Subtotal</i>	<i>450,207</i>	<i>389,464</i>	<i>60,743</i>	<i>15.6%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>76,253</i>	<i>66,380</i>	<i>9,873</i>	<i>14.9%</i>
<b>MCLS Total</b>	<b>526,460</b>	<b>455,844</b>	<b>70,616</b>	<b>15.5%</b>



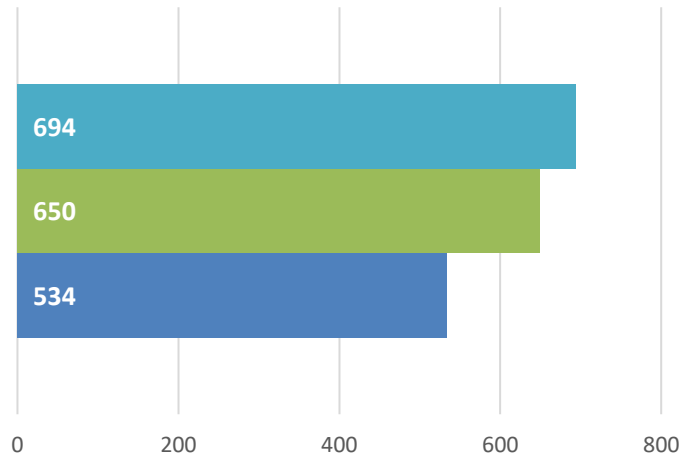
RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan–Feb



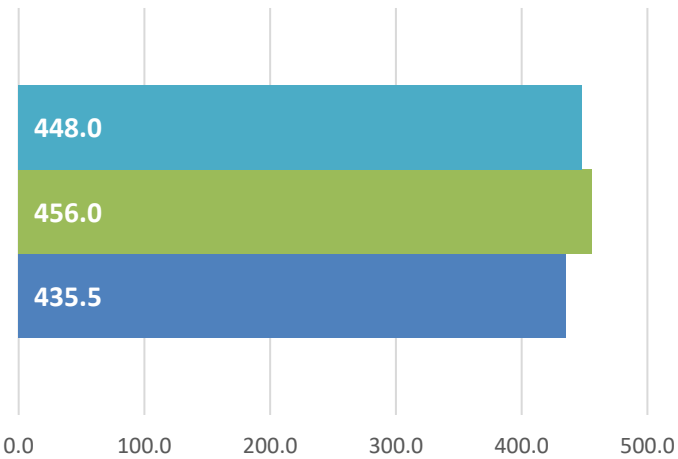
CIRCULATION



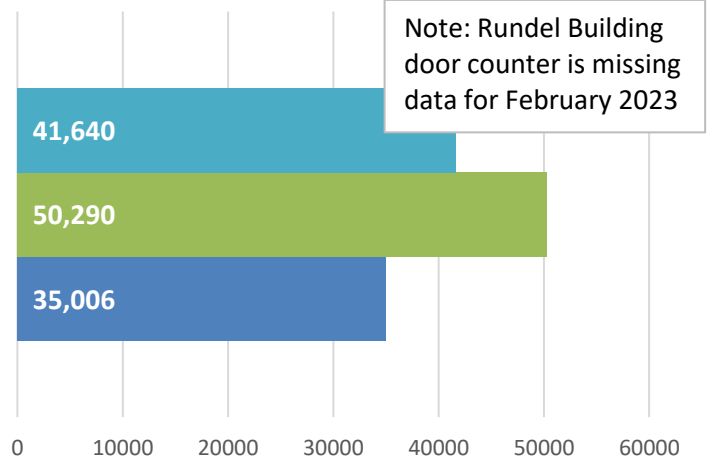
LIBRARY CARDS



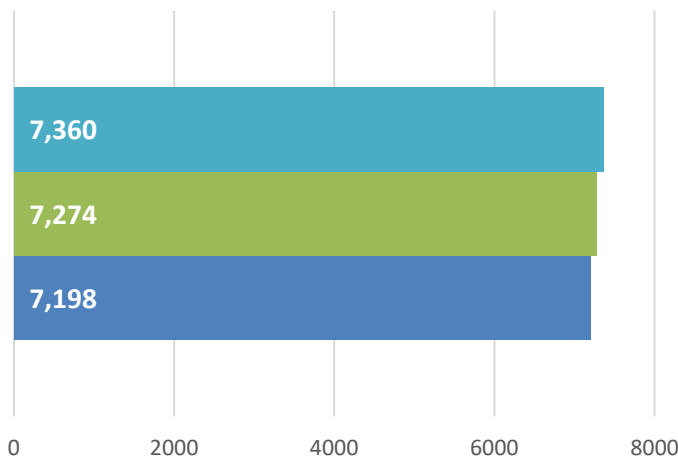
SERVICE HOURS



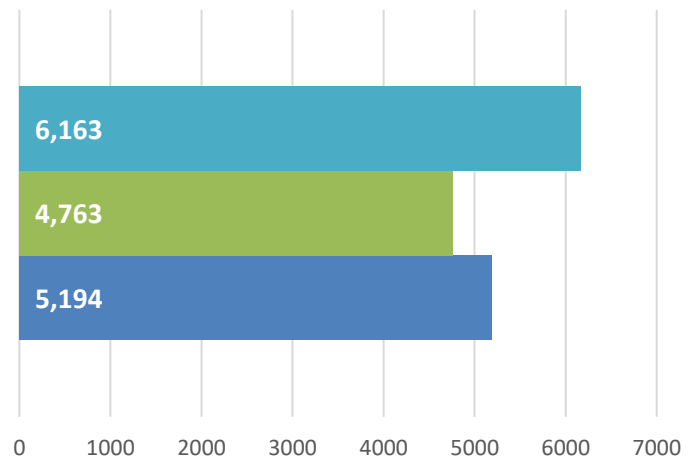
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



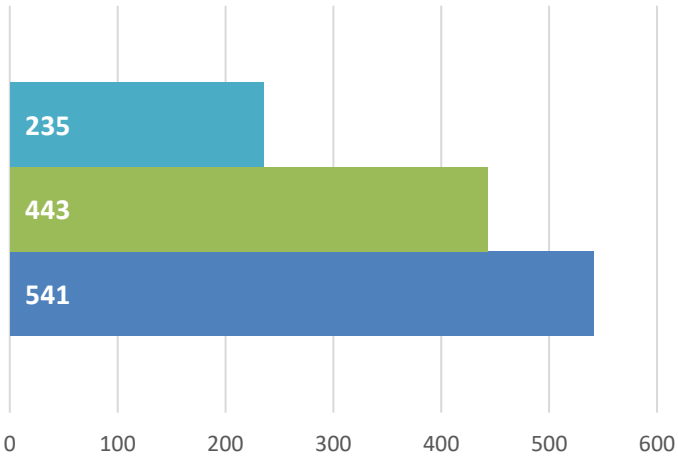
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan–Feb



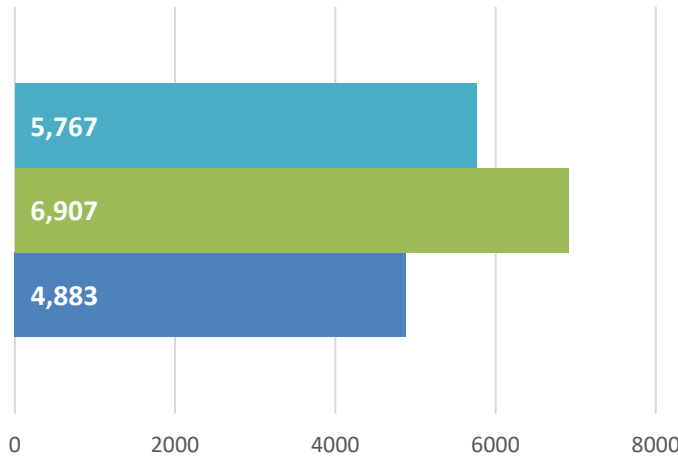
NOTARY



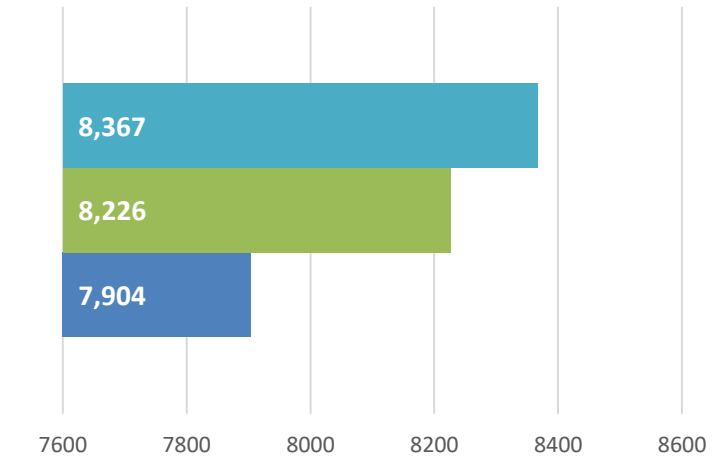
**DEFINITIONS**

- 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.

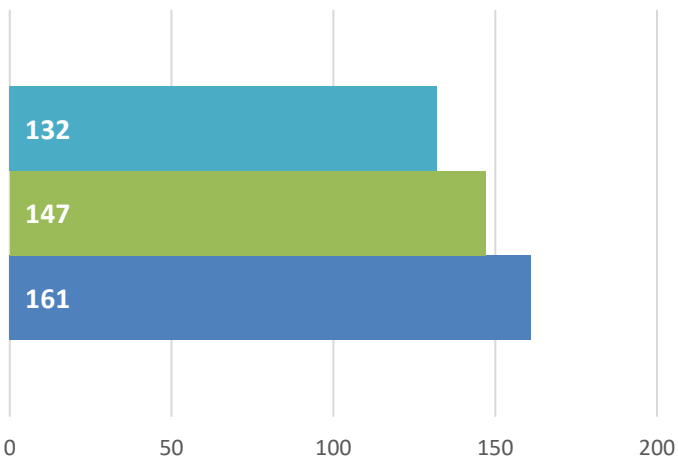
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

