
Director's Report

June 2019

Personnel

We had two negotiating sessions in May on the 16th and the 30th. We continue to make progress and we have established tentative agreement on the majority of areas. One full-time and two part-time staff initiated requests to adjust their work schedules. The Department Heads supported the requests, which the Library accommodated and documented.

Programs and Meetings

I attended the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) Directors' Association by videoconference from the Haverstraw Library on May 8th. I attended a Nyack Basics Coalition meeting on May 9th where I met a number of representatives of organizations active in supporting community literacy initiatives. I attended the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) Sexual Harassment Training on Tuesday, May 21st at the Haverstraw Library. All Nyack Library staff and members of the Board of Trustees will need to attend or provide documentation that they have attended training by October 9, 2019 in order to comply with New York State law. On May 23rd I attended the RCLS Construction Aid Review of Eligible Projects developed to provide an overview of the application process and to help RCLS staff assess the number of aid applications that may be submitted in September 2019. On May 30th the Nyack Parent-Child Plus program held graduation ceremonies in our Community Room, and I had the pleasure of welcoming and congratulating the families. These families participated in the *Cuentos y Canciones* programs held in our Storytime Room this past year.

On May 10th the Library with the support of the Friends of the Library held a well-attended Carnegie Concert featuring musician/storyteller Toby Tobias and his *Journey to Johannesburg*. Library staff supported the Friends of the Library benefit on May 23rd. The Phoenix Theatre Ensemble performed a staged reading of a play *Last Call* written by Peter Danish.

Building and Grounds

On May 3rd, staff reported a roof leak in the north building (1974 expansion). The extent of water/mildew damage to materials in the adult non-fiction 940's indicated an ongoing issue. Jeff Flournoy and I met with one of our roofing contractors to discuss the cause and remedies for the leaks. He recommended a full roof replacement given the age and condition of the current roof. Jeff met with another contractor, and we are waiting for cost estimates. I anticipate the need to apply for New York State Construction Aid to assist with paying for this large project. The application will need to be developed by early August.

Patron access and staff operations were disrupted for a week in early May by the insufficient vendor repair of the hydraulic seal in the North Elevator. The vendor finally repaired the equipment on May 10th after I escalated the issue with the area sales manager.

The re-wiring/AV project in the Community Room was completed through great teamwork between the Technology and Facilities staff. The new wiring improves resolution and visual display, but the sound now does not work with the current projector, which is now reaching its end of life. Due to the sound issue, a planned film program was cancelled on short notice which impacted patrons who came to attend the program. In addition, the manual screen requires repair to its locking mechanism and staff are working with a local vendor to resolve the issue.

Grants/Funding Support Update

We received a check for \$1340 in payment for Arts Alive Grant that Jane Marino received in support of the 2019 Carnegie Concert Series.

Tracy Dunstan, Head of Reference and Readers' Advisory Services, has been asked to be a panelist at the American Library Association Annual Meeting session on the *American Creed* program on Saturday, June 22nd. Tracy will share the planning and community response to the programs the Library offered to consider, reflect and honor the civic needs of America. There are three more programs planned for the series: June 8th and 13th; August 17th.

Mike Growney and I met with a donor regarding room naming opportunities.

Staff Development

In May we provided staff training on the following topics, Choose Privacy (5/6); Staff led BookTalks (5/13); Mental Health Awareness with Tracy Florida of the Behavioral Response Team. The presenter provided staff with guidance on setting boundaries when dealing with patrons in crisis and how to contact the Team for assistance. Anne Shaw and I offered a second session of Code Adam safety training to over a dozen full and part-time employees on May 17th. The staff did an excellent job participating in the two drills we conducted as well as actively sharing in the debriefing following the drills. Staff identified a concern regarding access to locked public restrooms during an emergency, and Jeff Flournoy promptly addressed the concern and communicated the resolution to staff.

Several staff from multiple departments attended professional meetings sponsored by RCLS (Teen Librarian; Circulation and Technical Users Group; Intermediate Trustees' Training); Library Association of Rockland County (Customer Service Division; Adult Services Division); New York Library Association (Youth Services Section conference)

Patron Feedback

We received a letter of thanks from new resident at Tappan Zee Manor. The patron requested that we place a bench at the parking lot entrance for patrons to use when waiting for taxis or rides.