
Director's Report

January, 2019

Personnel

Two issues are dominant for Personnel: Union negotiations and the Director's Search. In my opinion, we have made progress on both fronts. We have received to date 20 applications and the Search Committee has begun its interview process. First interviews are currently being conducted and will continue into this week.

The negotiations are continuing with progress being made on non-financial issues. We are scheduled for another session on February 14th.

Building and Grounds

Upon further discussions with Wickes Arborists, they are of the strong opinion that the Maple tree on the Depew Property should come down. They will apply a 10% Winter discount. I've spoken to a number of Executive Committee members who agree so I'm arranging for that work to be done.

We have received a request from the television show, FBI, to film a scene for their show in the Library. They want to use the Carnegie Room and the Reference Room. They also want to film an exterior scene and they will reach out to the Village for that. But the exterior scene would still take place on library property. There could be anywhere from 60-80 people involved and would need to set up lights and equipment. They promise it would only take 3-4 hours and they could start as early as 7am. I told them I needed to speak to the Board since it would necessitate a late opening on that day. We also need to determine what kind of fees to charge.

Due to public demand, we reshelfed our DVD movies back into genres. The DVD users complained heartily when we abandoned the genre shelving so we put it back. I, along with Shira, Tracy, Terri and Mike came in on a Sunday morning and put them back into genres. It took two hours, thanks to Terri's power of organization and everyone's hard work.

The work on the expanded circulation office is just about done. Currently we are waiting for the door handle for the new door. Some additional electrical work not included in the original scope had to be done, but other than that, it all went according to plan. We have yet to order furniture which we hope to get done this week. Please stop by and take a look.

Programs and Meetings

As you can see from the monthly attendance report, we had a full and lively month of programming, including our Maker Expo, which was very well attended. We took a break from Carnegie Concerts, but we are having our February concert on February 8 and as of this writing, it is fully booked. Our artist is a local resident and his appearance has generated a lot of buzz and excitement.

In related Carnegie news, the Library received a grant for \$1,340 from Arts Alive Westchester to help fund our Carnegie Concerts. We requested \$2,000 and they initially granted \$1,000. I then was notified that there was additional funding available, so we got an additional \$1,340. Sharon and I worked on this grant together and we are both very thrilled at the positive result.

I attended a Rockland County Directors meeting this month and met the new Director, Rhonda Rossman, for West Nyack Library. There will also be a new Director for the Nanuet Library, Jessica Bowen, who is replacing Gretchen Bell who retired. There is also a new Director at Finkelstein Library, Laura Wolven, who moved over from the Orangeburg Library.

Shira Barkoe attended the midwinter ALA meeting in Seattle. It was her first ever ALA conference and she really enjoyed it and benefitted from it.

RCLS

Included in your Board Packet, for you to approve is the New York State Report. This report is mandated every year to assure the State that we are in compliance with our legal requirements to be a public library in New York State. It reports on our collection size, circulation and reference question numbers, our program numbers and attendance and our budget. It has already been sent to RCLS, where it will be reviewed before it is sent up to the State.

In other news, Robert Hubsher is retiring as the Director of RCLS as of April 27, 2019 and Grace Riario will be Acting Director as of that date. The Board intends to form a Search Committee and launch a national search.