
Director's Report

September 11, 2017

Personnel. The Library has not heard from NYSUT regarding any formal requests for information or discussions about the start of contract negotiations. I will keep you and the Personnel Committee posted on any developments.

We are currently seeking a replacement for the Department Head for Reference and Readers Advisory. We are in the midst of interviews so we hope to move that to a successful conclusion soon. We are also seeking to replace Dane Paciarello with two part-time positions, one as a Technology Assistant and one as an Outreach Assistant. Those positions are currently posted, so we await responses from potential candidates.

On a personal note, let me say how valuable Dane has been both to me and to the Library in the time he has been here. His kindness and generosity shine through everything he has done here at the Library. He has worked with many programmers, community partners and local officials with the utmost professionalism and in so doing has polished our reputation in the community. I am grateful for everything he has done and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Minerva and I are working on a Staff Directory so that the Board will have the ability to recognize staff when they come into the library. It should be ready by the end of the month.

Meetings and Programs. July and August were busy with Summer Reading Programs for children, teens and adults. The childrens' and teens' programs were particularly successful, thanks to Aldona, Morgan and Kim and the hard work they did with programs and their encouragement to their young readers. Aldona's collaboration with Camp Nyack was particularly successful and I applaud her efforts in that regard. She reached out to young readers who may not have been able to participate in our program.

We began hosting Community Partners for our Monday Morning Training in July, with Mayor Jen White graciously agreeing to come and meet with our staff about what's going on in the Village. She was great and the staff enjoyed hearing from her. In August, Brooke Malloy and Diana Wilkins from Rockland Pride came to speak and tell the staff all that they do to serve the Community. In September, we will host representatives from the Nyack Hospital. We hope to invite other community partners in the months to come.

Library Collection. We have been hosting a trial of Kanopy, which is a streaming video service and features documentaries and independent films on a wide variety of subjects which we think will be of interest to our patrons. We hope to launch that for the public soon. We are also looking at Hoopla, from Midwest Tape, which has greatly improved its video selections and has good music and audio book selections as well. We are currently weeding some sections of our collection, including large print and mysteries.

Building and Grounds. Andrew Constantinou is currently working to paint the exterior trim on our Carnegie building windows. He has finished the front. They look great. Take a look when you get a chance. We've also had the exterior of our front door refinished which also looks great.

The new baby cherry tree has been planted. I've also been discussing trimming back the large elm in the northeast corner of the parking lot, which has a lot of dead wood and branches, one of which fell on my car last week, with little damage, but there is potential for more dead limbs to fall. I am enclosing an estimate from Dean Dykeman of Wickes Arborists to do the trimming work. In that quote, he also proposed eliminating the smaller elm next to the big tree. It is leaning towards the DePew House and will always lean that way. There is also a dead limb on the Maple in the southwest corner of the front yard of DePew House that he would remove while he has the equipment on the property.

The new Konica Minolta has been installed in the Reference Room, giving our patrons the opportunity to print from the computers located in the Reference Room, including the Kurz Business Corner Computers.

The Friends of the Library have purchased new banners for the Library which celebrate the diversity of Nyack by saying "welcome" in many different languages. The librarians on the reference staff worked on the design of these banners and they look beautiful. Thank you Friends for your continued generosity to the Library.

Minerva Parker has put together a complete and updated inventory of the artwork owned by the Library. The pieces that have all been located, identified and numbered are listed on the attached document. None of the artwork in the Library has been appraised since 1988. At that time, the Buttermilk Falls painting by John Henry Hill had some damage on it that has since been repaired. That would change the value of that painting. I propose that we get some quotes for an art inventory appraisal so the Board can decide if we should have that work done. I want to thank Minerva for a very complete and thorough list. She spent a lot of time tracking everything down and identifying them.