
Director's Report

October 2019

Personnel

The Library continued its work on contract implementation tasks including manager training, and updating hiring procedures to include contractual agreements for internal job posting schedules, inclusion of a bargaining unit member in candidate interviews and notifying the union of new hires. We posted two positions only for internal distribution: Teen Services Specialist and Senior Clerk. We began the hiring process for a Children's Librarian position, which we are filling using the budgeted and now vacated Teen Librarian position. Two employees resigned in September: Jen Harrigan, full-time Programs Coordinator and Wasan Syananondh, part-time Maker Space Assistant.

Programs and Meetings

I attended the Friends of the Nyack Library Executive Board meeting on September 5th. We discussed plans for the Great Nyack Get Together and Banned Books Week celebrations.

Accompanied by Trustees Dr. Cora Wilder, Ellyse Okin Berg and Roger Seiler, along with staff member Tracy Dunstan and Friend of the Nyack Library President, Sharon Aperto, I attended the Ramapo Catskill Library System Annual Meeting on September 13th. At the meeting the Nyack Library was awarded the 2019 RCLS Annual Adult Program of the Year award for the 2018 Carnegie Concert Season. The award included a certificate and a check for \$500.



Assisted by a number of staff, including Minerva Parker, Kristine Kumpf, Georgia Grandstaff, Eleanor Schuster, Belinda Cash, Lucia Gratch, Omar Pecou, and Jean Vital, the Nyack Library participated in the Great Nyack Get Together in Memorial Park on September 14. We entertained and informed the public about our services and resources, and were joined by our community partners, the Therapy Dogs of Rockland. Preparation assistance for the event were provided by Jennifer Harrigan, Shira Barkoe, Aldona Pilmanis and Tracy Dunstan.

We were happy to welcome Trustees Seiler, Murrell and Berg to the tent during the event. And we are grateful for the enthusiastic and generous financial support of the Friends of the Nyack Library. Sharon Aperto contributed great ideas and delivered wonderful keyring flashlights that we distributed to the public.

The first concert of the Carnegie Concert 2019-2020 season took place on Friday, September 20th. The concert featured *Dialogos Duo*. I am appreciative of the support Donna Lightfoot Cooper provided for

the event as well as for the dedicated Friends of the Nyack Library support for check-in and hospitality.



Trustee Ellyse Okin Berg and I attended the Nyack NAACP Youth Council Event at the Nyack High School on September 22nd. We received public recognition for our support to the Youth Council. We look forward to future partnership opportunities with this youth focused community organization. Security Guard Omar Pecou is an active adult leader of the Youth Council.

I held the first “Nyack Library Listens” hour on September 24th in the Bridge Entrance Circulation Area. The purpose of the event is to provide patrons with the opportunity to meet the library director and to share any thoughts or concerns about the library. I met about 10 people, all of whom, shared their love and appreciation for the library and its staff.

I attended a meeting of the Library Association of Rockland County on September 19th to discuss the mission and future of the organization. A primary purpose of the group is to provide for professional development and networking opportunities for staff in various library functional areas. The Nyack Library staff are active participants in the meetings scheduled throughout the year, and we provide meeting space as requested.

Building and Grounds

No major issues occurred in September. Maintenance Technician Jeff Flournoy continues to work on ongoing building repairs and upgrades including adding lighting in the Local History furnace room, installing cable management covers for safety in the Local History room, installing solar lights in the parking lot area and addressing the electrical issues preventing the parking lot lights on the DePew side from working.

The Carnegie Entrance was closed for 9 days while the exterior door was refinished to prevent further warping and while the stone steps were re-pointed. We were fortunate that good weather prevailed through the project period and a good result was achieved.



Grants/Funding Support

We received a check for \$6840 from the New York State Education Department as a 90% payment for the Circulation Area Construction Aid grant awarded to Nyack Library. The remainder of the aid will follow upon submission and successful receipt of the construction aid report.

Staff Development

The Library provided Lockdown Safety training and Sexual Harassment Prevention training in September.

Circulation staff, Donna Cooper and Terri Evans, attended the Circulation Users Group meeting at RCLS on September 18th.

Rosemary Farrell and Tracy Dunstan began Leadership Rockland training on September 12th. Kristine Kumpf, part-time Information Specialist is also part of this year's Leadership Rockland co-hort. Tracy Dunstan attended management training on September 18th.

Statistics

At the September Board meeting a question was asked about when the WiFi statistics would accurately reflect year over year comparison. Shira Barkoe reviewed when the correction to the statistical reporting was made, and she reported that the comparison will not be valid until March 2020.

New Initiatives

The Nyack Library is participating in the Nourish Your Neighbor Food Drive and would like the Board of Trustees to approve a fine waiver for patrons who donate a non-perishable, unexpired food item to the food collection on October 19, 2019. The fine waiver would not apply to lost items fees. Each individual donated item would remove \$1 worth of existing fines with the total waiver amount capped at \$10 per patron library card. The Library would promote the Food for Fines opportunity on its social media channels on October 18th and 19th. The food collection period runs through November 2nd and the People to People food pantry will be the recipient of the donated food. A sample shopping list has been provided by the Cornell Cooperative along with banners and other marketing materials specific to the food drive. The Food For Fines incentive is an optional part of the Nourish your Neighbor drive and will only be offered upon Board approval.