

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2024

Personnel

The Library hired Esther Schwartz as our temporary Business Manager. Esther worked for the Library part time from September 16 and will remain in that position until the Library appoints a new Business Manager.

The Library formed a hiring committee to evaluate and interview candidates for the open Business Manager position. The committee includes Board, Administration, and Union representation.

The Teen Room has hired two new Info Specialists: Vi Kwartler and Isabel Heider. Vi uses the pronouns they/them and comes to us with great experience in several New Jersey libraries. They are working on their MLS degree at Rutgers. Isabel is a lifelong Nyacker who used the Children's Room herself and is working part-time at Nyack Center as a tutor.

The Children's Room added Euan Jack as a page. Euan is a Nyack High School student and a person who has spent many hours in our Children's Room growing up here.

Outreach

On September 22 the Nyack Library hosted one half of a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) local business event. On September 21, the Valley Cottage Library hosted the other half. The purpose of the event was to highlight BIPOC businesses in the area and was hatched in the respective Diversity committees in each Library. It was funded with grant money secured by Tracy Dunstan and Carida Ridore from the Valley Cottage Library. This event was a true collaboration, wonderfully led by Tracy and Carida. Ultimately it proved to be a wonderful example of how these librarians used available resources to create a truly memorable event. Please see the photos included in Tracy's Adult Services report.

Several staff members attended LARCtember Fest in Nanuet, a fundraiser for the Library Association of Rockland County (LARC). Staff mingled with their colleagues at other Rockland County Libraries. Staff member Kristine Kumpf helped organize the event.

Nanor Pogosian worked with LARC to promote Library services at the County's senior fair at Rockland County College.

Several staff members attended the RCLS annual meeting.

Youth Services continues to do outreach with the schools. This month Morgan Strand was at Nyack High School as part of Library Card Sign Up Month.

Programs

The Library hosted a Banned Book read out. ALA created a week for libraries to build programming around the problem of books being banned at different libraries across the country. Our event included Board members, staff, and local dignitaries, who read from books that had been banned at a Library.

Technology

The Library has been instructed by our IT services vendor to start replacing several computers throughout the Library. We are behind the life cycle replacement on approximately forty computers and the Library is prioritizing ten staff computers as part of the first phase. We received three bids and based on recommendation based on staff/vendor comfort with maintenance, the Library chose the bid from Dell. We will be purchasing these computers in October and schedule the replacements soon after.

Facilities

New self-check machines should be installed soon. The Library's machines are no longer supported and has contracted with Bibliotheca to maintain our lease plan with them. One machine was removed from the adult services area, the other three machines will be swapped from their current locations in the Teen Room, Children's Room, and Circulation.

Work has started on the Depew House repairing some rotted wood on the Front Porch facing Piermont Ave. and the parking lot side entrance.