



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 2018

### Staff and Volunteers:

Finance and Facilities Manager Shibu Abraham attained Silver Certification for training in the new NYS Local and Retirement System online portal.

Administrative Assistant Kelly Corrado performed a comprehensive review of personnel files in the interest of organizing and recording the continuing education and professional development activities of all staff. New job descriptions require that staff maintain and update professional skills through workshops, webinars, conferences, etc., with subsequent submissions of reports and certificates.

Three librarians attended the annual Fall Into Books conference held in West Nyack at Crestview Conference Center. Head of Children's Janet Makoujy and Children's Librarian Amina Chaudhri presented talks on the portrayal of deaf children and children of incarcerated parents in children's literature, film, games, and social media. Teen Librarian Mary Phillips attended, as well.

A meeting of trustees of the boards of the New City and West Nyack Libraries was held on October 16 at West Nyack Library. An informal discussion about library matters and service to the Clarkstown community was followed by a tour of the facility.

### Collections:

The New City Library now has a **Goodreads page** at [goodreads.com/newcitylibrary](http://goodreads.com/newcitylibrary). Goodreads is a social cataloging website that allows users to create their own library catalogs and reading lists. Social media librarian Dana Munsch maintains the page and posts the titles of books that staff have highlighted with our "shelf talkers." Shelf talkers are small acrylic signs that highlight books on the shelves that have been turned face out to attract the attention of browsing patrons, a passive act of reader's advisory.

Robert Maher, Rockland Lake historian, donated photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings and ephemera to the Library, as he is relocating to California. The Library was also given the opportunity to scan a collection of aerial photographs from the collection of former Clarkstown Supervisor George Gerber.

**Programs:**

October was a record month for attendance at adult programs. Thirty-six sessions of programming drew 790 patrons. Hits included a bus trip to Kykuit museum, the always popular Tai Chi class (that required a second session to accommodate demand) and One Town, One Book programs that featured *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

The Teen Babysitters program had its highest turnout this decade. Forty-five teens started the three-session course on October 17.

Children’s Librarian Kathy Bachor produced a fun stop-action video promoting the DiNovember activity created by Children’s Librarian Amy Chesman. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/newcitylibrary/videos/522385651507049/>. DiNovember sends children on a dapper dinosaur scavenger hunt throughout the Children’s Room.

The Battle of Peekskill program presented by historian Michael Sheehan on October 10 drew 28 attendees. A Fort Montgomery Hike and History was rained out on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There is an attempt to reschedule in November. Twenty people attended the Nora Galvin talk on Genealogy and DNA on October 23.

Storytime at the Congers Train Station remains a big draw. It’s a fun and successful way to offer programming to our Congers patrons who are sometimes reluctant to make the trek to New City!

A quarterly full-staff meeting was held on October 26. Christina Mandara of Literacy Solutions spoke to the staff about their mission and the work they perform. New City Library is the tutoring hub of this volunteer-based program that focuses on English speaking and reading skills.

**Building and Facilities:**

A cracked glass panel in the awning over the front portico was replaced. Another panel nearby (over the newspaper reading area) was replaced, as well.

There was a minor leak in the ceiling near the circulation desk on October 27. It was caused by wind blowing rain into the rooftop HVAC units. It has been a particularly wet autumn.

Architect Jim Kovach from VMDO showed staff and trustees a hybrid design for the Master Plan that was developed from prior designs and the collaborative feedback of staff, management, and Trustees during a teleconference on October 29.

**Technology:**

Nothing to report.

**Miscellaneous:**

Fieldwork for the annual audit was performed by representatives from the Library’s auditing firm PKFOD on October 22 and 23.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Gallagher, Director  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
November 7, 2018

MG/kc