



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2017

### Staff and Volunteers:

**Joanne Stein-Carella**, Library Assistant II full-time, retired as of September 29 after 28 years of service.

**Karen Ostertag**, Librarian II in Adult Services, assisted a patron frustrated with an online job application process. Got the job!

**Janet Makoujy**, Head of Children's Services, attended a two-day workshop that led to her certification in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Four other staff members have taken this important training to learn how to identify and assist patrons with mental health challenges.

The director, Janet Makoujy, and Children's Librarian Amina Chaudhri joined library board trustees at the **annual RCLS Legislative Breakfast**. The Children's staff created a display to highlight maker programs, such as Learning to Sew and Little Bits workshops.

### Programs:

Our teen **Battle of the Books** team fought the good fight on September 10 but ultimately yielded to the four-time champions from Grahamsville.

The **Practice PSAT** program drew a good attendance of 28 teens.

**Local History programs** featuring Rockland County postcard collections and the history of Chestnut Ridge continued to draw solid attendance.

An **author talk** by former Clarkstown resident Jenna Barkin about her memoir, *He'll Always Be My Son*, was a resounding success with a capacity crowd.

This year's **One Town, One Book** program is off to a great start. Eighty-plus copies of the book *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri were distributed to residents wishing to take part in the book discussions. India-centric titles displayed in the lobby are circulating briskly. A concert performance featuring classical Indian music, as well as Bollywood tunes and a talk by a Muslim Indian immigrant, were well-attended.

### Building and Facilities:

The second batch of 18 **engraved patio pavers** were installed.

The basement office of the **Technical Services department** has been rearranged to accept ILL delivery beginning early October.

The **office nearest the Adult Services Reference Desk** has been refurbished to accommodate three librarians. Another office in the basement area will be the working quarters of two other librarians. The small basement office will thus be freed up to accommodate Literacy Solutions tutors, and the remaining open office will become another group study room.

The library hosted election primaries on September 12.

### **Technology:**

Library staff is migrating to **Gmail** from the RCLS-provided SmarterMail program. G-Suite for Nonprofits provides free email, document sharing, chat features and more than enhance productivity and facilitate collaboration. The new email addresses have an @newcitylibrary.org domain instead of @rcls.org.

### **Miscellaneous:**

September 24-30 was **Banned Books Week**. A creative display near the reading area at the entrance featured yellow caution tape around historically challenged titles.

The library’s Friends hosted the first **Community Tag Sale** on Sunday, September 17. All 33 spots were sold in the lower parking lot. The event was well-received by patrons and shoppers, and the Friends feel this may be something they’d like to do on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Silver, Director  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
October 9, 2017

MS/kc