



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual 2018

The year 2018 should be remembered as the year the Library Board of Trustees and staff committed to developing a comprehensive, collaborative, and creative **master plan for the facilities** that addresses both current and anticipated needs of the community. Through the use of staff and patron focus groups, visits to recently-renovated libraries of similar character, and some serious brainstorming, a conceptual schematic was created by architects to illustrate the potential of a reconfigured space with minor additions that could satisfy the space demands and programming needs of a 21st-century public library. In 2019, we will explore how this plan might be adopted (and possibly adapted) while maintaining the sound fiscal management this Board and administration have clearly exhibited.

A **new website** was introduced that puts programming front and center and devotes more attention to the Library's digital offerings. Digital ebooks, audiobooks, and streaming video circulation statistics continue to climb while print and disc formats account for a lower fraction of total circulation. **New formats** were added to the library's collections: Kindle e-readers for adults and teens and educational video Launchpads for kids.

But, our biggest tech development in 2018 was surely the creation of a **mini-makerspace** in a former staff office. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation, the space was outfitted with a wall-mounted workbench, stools, an LED screen for instruction, and storage space to supplement the 3D printer. Coding and circuitry classes are conducted here, as well as "open hours" for digital creators to work on individual projects.

Not every new addition to Library programs and services was of the technological kind. A **Little Free Library** was installed at Clarkstown's Germonds pool facility. Library discards and patron donations keep this tiny collection fresh and appealing to community residents. **Market umbrellas** were placed in the Children's garden to increase the use of this unique outdoor space during hot summer months. A new **Children's Reference Desk** was installed to replace the makeshift arrangement of re-purposed office furniture that previously provided an inadequate service point for our younger patrons and their families.

In addition to tried-and-true Library program favorites such as concerts and storytimes, other programs featuring bus trips, local history and genealogy, introductions to social media platforms, and adult crafting proved popular. Five **new book clubs** were started: Rise & Read (early morning times), Chronicles (local history titles), Adult Winter Reading, Family Book Club (for grades 3 and up) and a cookbook club. **Teen painting workshops** were always at capacity. An afternoon kids' film club, homework help sessions, sewing

classes, Lego clubs and countless other offerings help keep our children’s programming attendance high.

An **Amnesty Week** was offered during National Library Week in April to encourage the return of long-lost materials and patrons whose Library cards were blocked due to fines. This exercise in goodwill led to new Library card signups and the recovery of hundreds of Library items.

Library staff redoubled their **continuing education** efforts to meet the demands of newly-revamped job descriptions in 2018. Workshops and webinars in early literacy, STEAM education, customer service, marketing, and reader’s advisory were just some of the venues through which Librarians and Library Assistants could learn how to upgrade their skills and improve job performance. Training in mental health issues, cultural sensitivity, Code Adam procedures, and naloxone administration was offered, as well.

Library Assistant II **Lulu Paolini** retired after 20 years of service, and Page II **Susan Schwinn** retired after 15. Part-time Library Assistant I **Anne Davies** was promoted to full-time Library Assistant II.

At the December 12, 2018, Library Board **trustee election**, incumbents Victor Berger, Robert Axelrod, and Agin Antony were re-elected. The proposed New City/West Nyack **library budget referendum** enjoyed an 80% approval rate the same day.

Thanks to that level of community support, the New City Library staff and Board are spurred on in 2019 to continue providing the high-quality Library service and programming that the Clarkstown community has come to depend on.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
January 10, 2019

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