



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual 2022

The New City Library underwent significant change in the year 2022. The return to somewhat normal operations after two years of the *Pandemic COVID-19* was delayed as we packed up, moved out, and set up operations in a temporary location in order to begin the long-awaited renovation.

As is custom, we start the new year with a celebration of service anniversaries of staff celebrated in the prior year. The following staff achieved their milestones in 2021:

- Dana Munsch, Adult Services Librarian (5 years of service)
- Janet Makoujy, Head of Children's Services (10 years of service)
- Richard Wrobel, Custodian (15 years of service)
- Jodi Hink, Adult Services Librarian substitute (15 years of service)
- Frankie Bueno, Custodian (20 years of service)
- Darcey Green, Library Assistant (20 years of service)
- Alyse Alper, Page (25 years of service)
- Craig Price, Page (30 years of service)
- Nancy Moskowitz, Adult Services Librarian (30 years of service)

While on the subject of staff, we were saddened to lose the following six staff members to greener pastures:

- Mark Gervino, Head of Support Services
- Jennifer Embry, Children's Librarian
- Amy Chesman, Children's Librarian
- Jerry Graham, Community Relations Assistant
- Dana Munsch, Adult Services Librarian
- Jolie Santiago, Page

Library Assistant Stephanie Roberts was promoted to take the reins of *Support Services*.

After having successfully purged, donated, moved, and stored 31,000 square feet of library contents, the *New City Library Express (NCLE)*, located at 198 South Main Street, opened for business in 3,000 square feet of leased space in the DeCicco's shopping center on Tuesday, February 22. The focus of service within this temporary location is a small, but hearty, collection of books, DVDs, and popular periodicals. Patrons are able to place interlibrary loan requests for titles we may have moved to storage but are still available from other libraries.

Without appropriate meeting space, Adult, Teen, and Children’s programming has migrated to locations throughout Clarkstown: the *Street Community Center*, the *Clarkstown Learning Center* in Congers, *Dutch Gardens* behind the county courthouse, the *Congers Train Station*, and the *Congers Veterans Memorial Association*. Once COVID restrictions eased a bit, smaller programs were held indoors in the cozy rear space of *NCLE*. Online adult programs, created as a response to COVID-19 conditions, continued to enjoy healthy (even international, at times) attendance via Zoom.

Construction at 220 North Main got off to a later start than anticipated, but once underway, appeared to move forward at a brisk pace. *Consigli Construction Company, Inc.*, acting as Construction Manager, is tasked to bring to fruition the excellent design of *VMDO Architects* of Charlottesville, VA. Full completion is expected in the summer of 2023.

The first cycle of New York State Division of Library Development construction aid was awarded to the project in the amount of \$447,252. *Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick* sponsored a State and Municipal construction (SAM) grant for \$75,000 for the new terrace to be installed on the southern end of the building.

At the end of the year, the Library’s contract with the *Ramapo Catskill Library System’s Integrated Library System (ILS)* expired. Concurrently, the system implemented its “Path Forward,” a plan to separate its IT services from its provision of an ILS. Libraries were offered three choices: full IT support for a network maintained by RCLS; a hybrid setup that would require the maintenance of two networks (one for ILS traffic only; the other for every other internet-based activity we engage in); or go totally independent using an outside IT consultant and relying on a web-based version of the ILS that had been developed on a client/server model.

After much deliberation and recommendation by RCLS, the decision was made to go IT independent. It remains to be seen in 2023 if the web-based version of the ILS (Symphony Web) is sufficient. Patrons will not see a difference in their own use of the online catalog; the change in ILS delivery affects the staff and may subsequently affect customer service at the front desk.

The year closed out with a successful budget vote result (406 yeas to 126 nos) and re-election of incumbents *Jeffrey Sasson* and *Patricia Voce* to the Board. Trustee *David Zuckerberg*, having served on the Library Board for nine years and as Vice President and Treasurer, chose not to run again, leaving the opportunity for a new member, *James Ferguson*, to be elected to fill his place.

It has been a year of great change for staff, trustees, and the patrons we serve. But the year 2022 has brought us much closer to our shared goals of superior library service in the form of improved and expanded library space. We steadfastly keep our “eyes on the prize” as we see to the completion of the renovation in 2023.

My sincerest gratitude goes to the Board for their vision and guidance, the staff for their energy and diligence, and to the Clarkstown community for their patience and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
January 19, 2023

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