

**Staff and Volunteers:**

Curbside delivery of materials is one service that arose thanks to the pandemic; we intend on keeping it a permanent method of delivery for those who do not wish to come in to the Library or have mobility issues. This feature will be incorporated into the renovation plans. Support Services staff has had to brave some inclement weather to offer the service, but postal workers have nothing on our staff!

The Director and other staff members participated in focus groups arranged by RCLS in the interest of developing their 5-year plan of service beginning in 2022.

**Collections:**

Digital e-book circulation continues to be robust. For some high demand titles, we have been using the pay-per-circ model, which allows simultaneous circulation of titles. The top three most highly-circulated titles were:

- *Promised Land* by President Barack Obama
- *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

**Programs:**

December is traditionally a quiet month for programming. No report.

**Building and Facilities:**

The Director, Finance & Facilities manager Shibu Abraham, and Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings took a tour with Clarkstown officials of the vacant Rockland Country Day School to see if it might be a suitable candidate for a temporary location during the Library's anticipated renovation.

The Library closed in the afternoon of December 16 and all day December 17 due to an accumulation of 8" of snow.

The Library closed at 1 p.m. for Christmas Eve (12/24) and New Year’s Eve (12/31) and remained closed on Christmas Day (12/25) and New Year’s Day (1/1/21).

### **Technology:**

The installation of the new server was completed in December. As expected, there were some hiccups, but all have been resolved.

### **Miscellaneous:**

The combined annual Library budget vote and trustee election was held on December 9 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Due to pandemic conditions, extra care was taken to observe established protocols concerning masks and social distancing. The election was held in the main area of the Library instead of the Conference Room.

The combined New City/West Nyack Library budget passed 393 to 129. Turnout was at approximately the same level as last year (513 in 2019). Although the most recent three budget votes drew approximately the same amount of voters, in 2020, the absentee voters represented about half of the ballots cast. In 2018 and 2019, absentee voting accounted for only 20%.

In the trustee election, incumbents Phyllis Morena and Denis O’Hanlon were reelected. Newcomer Lisa Coughlin won the seat vacated by Ed Bertolino who was finishing out his 1<sup>st</sup> term. A total of 263 ballots were cast and 18% were absentee.

Some noteworthy patron comments:

Veronica Reynolds received this compliment from a grateful patron:

*“I was in the Library yesterday and wanted to personally thank you for the virtual Zoom classes and for being so helpful. Could not see you so please accept this as my way of telling you how much I appreciate.”*

Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri received this poetic compliment after assisting a patron performing genealogical research:

*“With all the crap going on, he’s restored my faith in humanity.”*

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Gallagher, Director  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
January 14, 2021

MG/kc