



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 2021

Staff and Volunteers:

Congratulations to Adult Services Librarians Matthew Aull and Joe Barbieri on the birth of their sons!

On February 4, the director, Shibu Abraham, Head of Community Relations, Veronica Reynolds, and Head of Children's, Janet Makoujy, attended the online 2020 New York State Annual Report Workshop hosted by RCLS. This annual workshop provides instruction and guidance in filling out the report required by NYS Division of Library Development.

The Library Director attended the virtual New York Library Association's Advocacy Day on February 25 (with new State Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick) and on February 26 (with State Assemblymember Ken Zebrowski). New Library Trustee Lisa Coughlin attended both meetings, as well. The Director acknowledged the importance of the state's Library Construction Aid grant program, and thanked Mr. Zebrowski for his reliable and continual support of public libraries.

Multiple staff members attended "How to Best Serve the LGBTQ+ Community," a virtual program hosted by Pearl River Library.

Collections:

Nothing to report.

Programs:

Children's Librarian Jennifer Embry has a hit on her hands with the hosting of the virtual whodunit "Among Us." Kids ranging in age from 8-13 sign up for a Zoom get-together where they all log on to a second device (like their phone or PC) to actually play the game. Most of the action happens on a space station, and players are assigned by the game itself to be either crewmates or imposters. Crewmates are assigned tasks and jobs and move around the space station as they perform them. Imposters try to "eliminate" crewmates without being detected. The goal is for either the crewmates to complete all their tasks or vote off all imposters, or for the imposters to eliminate them all.

“Among Us” has only a chat feature and is usually played anonymously; by the Library hosting the game on Zoom, players get to meet each other which encourages cooperation and friendly competition. Jennifer has the opportunity to mitigate arguments between players, provide reminders of being a good sport and reinforce communication skills that can be loud, fast, and competitive. The weekly turnout for this program is anywhere from 8 to 14 youths.

Popular adult programs this month were The Life of Paul Newman, Jewish Mosaic of Singapore, and Rockin’ Hollywood. A concert based on the History of Black Music in America was so loved by patrons that they requested a repeat performance live when the appropriate time comes.

Building and Facilities:

Mackenzie Door company replaced the motor on the outer entrance doors.

Engineers from OLA convened in the Library on February 5 to study the building’s mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in advance of the renovation.

The Library Director met with the team from VMDO Architects for design review meetings on Zoom on February 10 and 18. Consulting architect Donald MacDonald was in attendance.

Architects from EnviroSpace came to the Library to review existing conditions ahead of the renovation project.

On February 22, Shibu Abraham and the Director met with Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann, Director of Operations Al Moroni, Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator Jeff Gillies, First Deputy Town Attorney Paul Schofield, and Director of Engineering and Facilities Management Dennis Letson to discuss the use of Rockland Country Day School as a temporary location of the Library during the construction project.

On February 26, the Director met consulting architect Donald MacDonald at Rockland Country Day School to take dimensions, note data and electric access, and make a general assessment of the suitability of the facility as a temporary location for the Library during construction.

Technology:

Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous:

The Library was closed February 1, 2 and 7 due to significant snowfall and/or hazardous road conditions. The Library opened at 1 p.m. on February 9 due to inclement weather.

The Library was closed on Monday, February 15, for Presidents Day.

On February 18, the Library closed in anticipation of up to 8” of snow. We closed at 5 p.m. the next day (Friday; normal close at 6 p.m.) due to road conditions.

Some noteworthy patron comments:

“...Your programs are great and we really appreciate what you and other staff members have done for us.” – email to Veronica Reynolds

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
March 9, 2021

MG/kc