



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2021

Staff and Volunteers:

Staff continue to exhibit grace under pressure as pandemic conditions continue. While other libraries remain at curbside levels of service, the New City Library staff found a balance between operating safely and providing superior service to the community in a welcoming fashion with open doors.

Collections:

Hoopla (downloadable books, music, audiobooks, films, TV, etc.) had a record setting month in January with 1,049 circulations. Hoopla uses a pay-per-use model, so checkouts are limited to ten per patron per month. Digital audiobooks are the most popular checkouts on Hoopla.

Our **Twitter posting** of a reading list for those enjoying the Bridgerton series on Netflix reached 8,123 Tweeters and garnered reactions from popular romance writers Tessa Dare and Julie Anne Long. Adult Services Librarian II Karen Ostertag, who develops our Romance fiction collection, created the list.

The children's department will begin circulating its small collection of **Artie robots** and **Ozobots**. Both tech toys introduce young children to the concept of coding.

Programs:

Head of Support Services Mark Gervino conducted our first **combined in-person/Zoom book group meeting**. Four hearty souls (at least those in person who met outside!) attended.

We have had to start limiting our extremely popular children's "**Take and Make**" craft kits to New City and West Nyack patrons only.

Two children's online programs that are enjoying good attendance are **Imagination Station** and **Zumbini with Miss Flo**. Imagination Station combines an online storytime with a related craft; craft supplies are picked up at the Library prior to the event. Zumbini combines moves from adult Zumba classes with fun play for preschoolers.

Book clubs for grades 3-4 through 5-6, however, have failed to draw participants. That may very well be a reflection of the (hopefully) temporary disruption to families’ and children’s lives due to the pandemic.

Adult online programs that were successful were The Beatles: from Liverpool to Abbey Road; a showing of 16mm films of New York from the Museum of Interesting Things; and lectures on Governors Island, the Brooklyn Bridge, and abstract art.

In 2020, a total of 38 recorded webinars were posted to our YouTube channel where they received 1,558 views.

Building and Facilities:

Monsey Glass added two additional Plexiglas “**sneeze guards**” to the Circ Desk.

The Library closed for snow on January 3, and at 1 p.m. on January 26.

On Tuesday, January 19, the Library began a new, temporary schedule change. Monday through Thursdays, the Library will close at 8 p.m. until further notice. This change allows more flexible staffing options due to possible staff shortages caused by quarantining/isolating requirements for COVID-19 events. As patrons are self-limiting their visits, we have also found the 8-9 p.m. hour very quiet.

Technology:

Website page views have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels after taking a severe dip in the first half of 2020.

Miscellaneous:

Some noteworthy patron comments:

“Thank you for all that you do to make staying at home tolerable!”

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
February 12, 2021

MG/kc