



NEW CITY LIBRARY

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF NEW CITY, CONGERS AND BARDONIA

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2016

Patron Service:

Rosetta Stone, the popular foreign language learning system, is once again available to libraries. System-wide access is being funded by the Central Library in Newburgh. New City will continue to offer *Mango Language Learning* for adults and *Muzzy* for children. The librarian staff agrees these are superior products.

Staff and Volunteers:

Librarian and circulation staff were trained on a **new SEAL interlibrary loan system** that enables academic, special, and public libraries of the lower Hudson Valley to share materials. Theresa Dolch, Library Assistant II, conducted the final training in order to ensure a streamlined process of which most of the librarian staff participates.

Amy Chesman, Amina Chaudrhi, and Kathy Bachor, Children's Librarians, and Mary Phillips, Teen Librarian, attended the annual **Fall Into Books conference** that celebrates, highlights, and promotes literature for youth.

The husband of a woman who uses our **Homebound Service** to receive books through the mail came in to personally thank Nancy Moskowitz, Adult Services Librarian, for providing this valuable service.

The Director attended the **Library Journal Design Institute** in Charleston, SC. New City Library was chosen as a "design challenge." We were paired with a Minneapolis architectural firm who visited the library, met with the Director to discuss space issues, and re-created floor plans of the Library that a team of architects and librarians could study and critique to offer suggestions and constructive commentary on a possible re-design and renovation.

Programs:

The film series for our **One Town, One Book** program was well attended and sparked good discussion. The films selected explored various aspects of the book, in particular, life in turn-of-the-19th century New York, the Hamilton-Burr duel, and

early American history. The program has 104 registrants, a number that far exceeded our expectations for this first-time (well, in a long time) effort.

Renaissance of the Jews in Sicily drew a crowd of over sixty.

Our annual **Haunted Library** on Saturday, October 29, was a success. Teen volunteers come in the day before and created decorations and displays to provide a not-too-scary Halloween experience for families with young children.

Pumpkinpalooza remains an annual favorite. The Storytelling Club from Clarkstown North High School visits to tell ghost stories to young children. This year there were 50 children in attendance. **Family Fun Night Square Dance** was enjoyed by both old and young.

A new children’s program entitled **Family Math & Science** is off to a great start.

Our second program annually on **genetics in genealogy** drew 45 participants – some new faces, too.

Building and Facilities:

The library was closed on Monday and Tuesday, October 3 and 4, for a total **renovation of the parking lot**. Staff reported on the Tuesday for a full day of uninterrupted shelf reading, office work, and general cleaning. During the closing, five **electrical floor receptacles** were installed at the study tables on the upper floor for use by patrons with personal electronic devices.

On Tuesday, October 4, Jack Poling from **architectural firm MSR Design** in Minneapolis visited as part of the director’s participation in the Library Journal Design Institute. The director led him through a complete tour of the building, and he provided suggestions and advice on maximizing the existing space.

The **projector** in the Meeting Room was outfitted with a new bulb. There was a delay as the projector model is discontinued and finding parts is challenging.

The **carpeting throughout the lobby** is showing significant wear and stretching, due in large part to the fact that deliveries of books on hand trucks and other heavy, wheeled containers are conducted through the front entrance. This is an area of focus in the preliminary considerations of renovation.

VOIP telephone service is now being directly provided by Optimum. The service with Cornerstone is no longer necessary. Telephone service experienced minor disruption during the transition. Savings will result in approximately \$150 per month. Optimum also moved the internet modem/router to the LAN room during the process for better access and a more direct line from the outside. We also received a free 25Mbps router from Optimum as part of their **Power to Learn** program. We will use this for dedicated wifi access for certain programs and events such as the AARP Tax Aide Program and laptop instructions.

The **cable internet access** we receive through Optimum also provides free basic cable TV. The library has never taken advantage of this, so it was requested that Optimum provide a new cable TV box and install it in proximity to the A/V equipment for the meeting room so that it may be used to broadcast special events or programs on public television.

Technology:

A “**people counter**” was installed at the entrance to the library to replace the built-in counter of the security gates. Previously, counts were taken at the end of the day by reading the counter and recording manually. The new counter allows tracking by hour, day, and can distinguish between adults and children. This will give us valuable information to assist with staffing and programming.

Miscellaneous:

The audit process continued through the month and should wrap up by mid-November.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Silver, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
November 9, 2016

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