

Staff and Volunteers:

I am saddened to announce that Page Supervisor **Marie Klimek** passed away this month after retiring in June. She started at the library in 1991. Marie's outsize personality, generosity, and enthusiasm for her job touched us all. Staff contributed to a paver in her memory.

Head of Support Services **Mark Gervino** attended a Library Association of Rockland County (LARC) meeting to learn more about recycling discarded books. Finding an economically sensible and environmentally sensitive way to dispose of our discards is becoming more challenging.

Head of Adult Services **Brian Jennings** attended a 2020 Census meeting for Rockland libraries to discuss a strategy for service and marketing for the Census.

Local History Librarian **Joe Barbieri** and **Brian Jennings** attended training in ContentDM at Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC). ContentDM is software that allows libraries to build, manage, and showcase digital collections.

Head of Children's Services **Janet Makoujy**, Head of Community Relations **Veronica Reynolds**, and Adult Services Librarian **Matthew Aull** attended an RCLS workshop on algorithmic literacy. Algorithmic literacy is the awareness of how computer algorithms in software can manipulate, in a sometimes biased way, search engine results, online shopping experiences, and other engagement on the internet.

Teen Librarian **Mary Phillips** and Children's Librarian **Kathy Bachor** attended New York ComicCon at the Javits Center. ComicCon is a unique experience and is a fun way for our librarians to keep current in the graphic novel genre.

Ten teen volunteers contributed 57 hours of their time to the Library, mostly towards the success of the October Halloween Mystery Party program for teens.

Retiree **Claire Abbamonte** has returned to volunteer and help us with our newspaper clipping and digitization project.

High school students from a Clarkstown South work program helped clean books in the Children's Department.

The quarterly **all-staff meeting** was held on October 18. Everyone participated in a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) that will contribute to the development of the new Strategic Plan.

An **Eagle Scout candidate** is planning the installation of a bird-watching area by the lower parking lot. Benches and an informative plaque will create an inviting spot to commune with our avian patrons and learn more about them. Children’s Librarian Kathy Bachor played a part in this young man’s interest in the outdoors with her bird-watching program.

Collections:

A **Staff Pick display** was created in the lobby to highlight one title each month. Multiple copies on display have generated great interest. This month’s selection was *Beloved* by Toni Morrison.

Programs:

Two local history hikes drew twelve attendees each in October. The first, held on October 5, was a walk to learn more about the iron industry in **Sterling Forest** and how it played a part in the Revolutionary War. The second, held on October 19, explored **Dutch Gardens** and nearby **Demarest Kill Park**.

A passive children’s program decorating **paper jack o’lanterns** was a huge hit.

Ninety people attended the program to hear about the history of the **Borscht Belt**.

An Afternoon with Edgar Allen Poe was a surprise hit, drawing 65 attendees. Several patrons requested a return visit of the troupe who performed.

The annual **One Town, One Book** program is in full swing. Ninety copies of *The Price of Salt* by Patricia Highsmith have been distributed. Book discussions and the showing of the film adaptation *Carol* will serve to enhance the reading of the book.

Our first program designed for **visiting group homes** and **Jawonio clients** was held at the beginning of the month. Children’s Librarian Amy Chesman saw the need to engage these visitors, and she and Veronica Reynolds created an active monthly program in the meeting room that offered coloring, Legos, board games, puzzles, books, and a film. Both staff and the participants were excited by the outcome; schedule coordination with Jawonio in the future will be key.

Kevin Miller, the sales director of the new **Atria** location on Main Street, stopped by to introduce himself and inquire about ways this assisted-living community can partner with the Library in providing programs and services for its residents.

Building and Facilities:

The torn and stretched **carpeting in the lobby** was replaced and the subflooring repaired during the overnight hours on October 15.

A strange, loud noise emanating from one of the **rooftop HVAC units** over the Children’s Room is being investigated by Trane.

Technology:

Veronica Reynolds, Janet Makoujy, and Administrative Assistant Kelly Corrado attended a webinar to learn more about **event management software** by LibraryMarket. After discussion and further analysis, we have decided to transition from our EventKeeper software to the new one because of its superior design and functionality.

Miscellaneous:

The Library is enjoying a surge in **Facebook** activity. We’ve gained 33 new followers and our “reach” (the number of unique users who have seen our posts) for the month has doubled.

The fieldwork for the library’s **annual audit** was performed on October 22 and 23.

The Director attended a breakfast ceremony at The Chalet at Spook Rock Golf Course to accept an award on behalf of the Library for employing people with disabilities. October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
November 14, 2019

MG/kc