



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## September 2019

### Staff and Volunteers:

**Library Assistant II Theresa Dolch** attended Narcan training at West Nyack Library on September 10.

Ten **teen volunteers** donated 29 hours of their time in September.

**Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri** is attending a four-part series workshop on Digitization at Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC). Our historical digital collections at Hudson River Valley Heritage ([hrvh.org](http://hrvh.org)) have been migrated to the New York Heritage Portal ([nyheritage.org](http://nyheritage.org)), and this workshop focuses on the new practices required by the new host.

**Teen Librarian Mary Phillips** attended the first meeting for the 2020 SCRAWL project, a popular Library Association of Rockland County (LARC) annual program that solicits and publishes prose, poetry and artwork from county teens in a single volume. Copies are added to every library's collection.

**Adult Librarians Matthew Aull and Joe Barbieri** attended an RCLS program entitled, "How to Spot a Fake: Disinformation and Our Media," to learn more about techniques used to spread disinformation and teach patrons how to separate truth from fiction online.

**Library board trustees Jeff Sasson and David Zuckerberg** and the director attended the RCLS Annual Meeting and Legislative Breakfast at The Sullivan Conference Center in Rock Hill, NY.

### Collections:

Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings added to our **oral history collection** by interviewing a long-time resident of New City with roots in the Norwegian community that settled here in the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century and was active in the building trades.

The popularity of **print magazines** in both the Teen's and Children's sections of the library is in decline. Teen subscriptions have been cancelled and Children's titles have been winnowed to only those in demand.

A Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS)-wide subscription to **Niche Academy** will allow our staff to participate in work-related training videos online and for supervisors to monitor continuing education of their staff. There is also a public side for patrons that will offer tutoring in database usage.

### **Programs:**

Our team of teens in the annual **Battle of the Books** competition placed second among 19 teams on September 8 at the Orange Community College. Contestants had to read eight pre-selected Young Adult titles of differing genres before the event and answer trivia questions in a game show format.

A patron took advantage of our **3D printer** to print a new little red flag for his mailbox. We posted a picture of the flag on our Instagram account, and the patron responded in the comments section with a picture of it installed on his mailbox. The patron was very grateful for the availability of this service.

Adult Librarian Dana Munsch tutors seniors in technology through our partnership with **Clarkstown’s Senior Digital Class**.

**Storytime at the Congers Train Station** remains a successful program. International Talk Like a Pirate Day was celebrated with a substantial crew of small buccaneers at the **Pirate Party** for ages 3-10 on September 21.

September’s **Hikes and History** walk took place at the site of Sandyfield, a settlement that was submerged by the creation of Lake Welch in Harriman State Park. Hikers were also able to visit St. John’s in the Wilderness, an Episcopalian church in the park that was founded in 1880.

Our Annual **Community Tag Sale** was held in the lower parking lot on September 28. Thirty-three vendors signed up; foot traffic was at a modest but steady pace.

Fifty people turned out for the two-part **Ellis Island lecture**.

The library’s **Annual Blood Drive** happened on September 3. Administrative Assistant Kelly Corrado coordinates this vital community service with the New York Blood Bank.

### **Building and Facilities:**

Nothing to report.

**Technology:**

A tech mystery occurred when someone noticed the **digital times on the phone system** were falling behind by several minutes. This was affecting the voicemail service and causing some minor inconvenience. The cause was the new Children’s printer sharing the same IP as the time server for the VOIP telephones. Adult Librarian II Karen Ostertag and our computer consultant worked together to correct the misconnection.

**Miscellaneous:**

The director, Head of Community Relations, Veronica Reynolds, and Head of Children’s Services, Janet Makoujy, (wo)manned a booth at the **New City Street Fair** on September 22.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Gallagher, Director  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
October 7, 2019

MG/kc